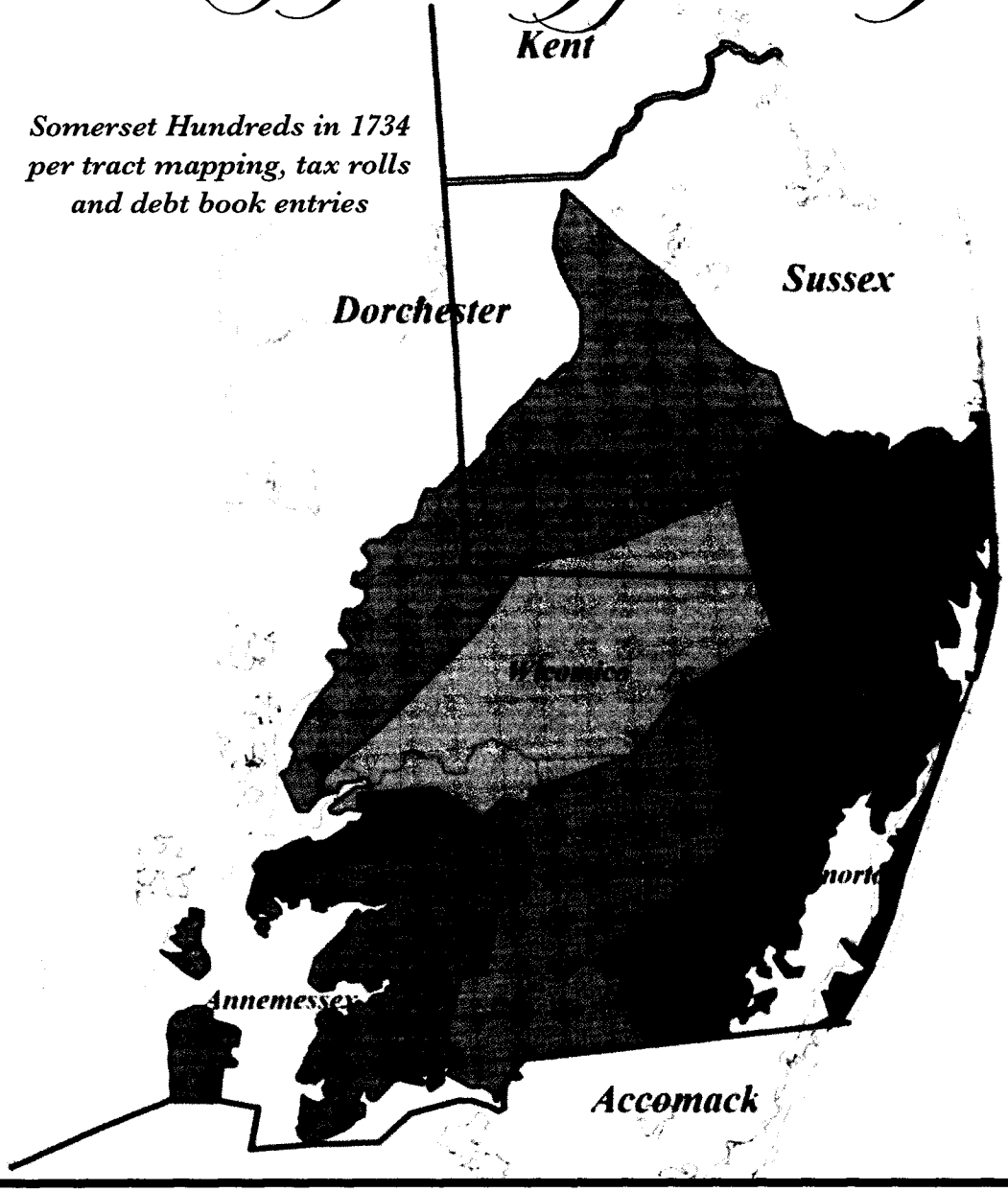
Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture

Shoreline

Vol. 13, No. 9 • September 2006

For the Members of the Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury University

Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries



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Director's Dialogue

from Becky Miller

"The sleepers in the graveyards
of Mother Eastern Shore,
The noble men and women
of the centuries gone before,
Whose fame survives with
fadeless rays,
In our peerless land,
between the bays."
Dr. L.P. Bowen

In this issue featuring borders and boundaries, we take a look at the strife that arbitrary political boundaries have caused over the centuries. Eastern Shoremen have, for the most part, not viewed themselves as three sections. In 1931 after Baltimore columnist H.L. Mencken had blasted the Shore, the editor of the *Federalsburg Times* of Caroline County brought up the age old feeling of the Peninsula as one cultural entity:

> What a splendid state this Delmarva Peninsula would make. A rich country, close to city markets but far enough away to avoid its contamination, and its political influence. A unified people with common interests, ideals and aspirations. What a great 'free state' we could have–a state with more than one-half million people, with no dominating large cities–fourteen rich, prosperous counties in the best section of the United States.

We think you will really enjoy the feature article by John Lyon, who is the foremost authority on old Somerset County land patents and their locations. He has labored over a decade in researching and recreating those boundaries. As always, our student articles should be of interest to our readers. Since the Nabb is part of Salisbury University, we focus upon providing educational experiences to all students enrolled at the University. During the summer and each semester, the Nabb Center trains student interns in historical research, exhibit creation, archival methods and cultural documentation. Although we had to condense it for space considerations, you don't want to miss Doris Gelbman's article which she wrote while a student. Doris was a history major at SU and is now a practicing attorney in Boston.

2007 is the 25th anniversary year for the Nabb Research Center. Our membership premium for the anniversary year is a specially designed lapel pin with our logo. Memberships are renewable in January 2007—renew early and show your support by wearing the pin. Thank you for your continued support of the Nabb Center as a learning resource for both students and the greater public community.

NOTE: Source materials for articles are available at the Nabb Research Center.

Submissions

Anyone interested in submitting an article to the *Shoreline* newsletter for the spring 2007 issue to feature early Colonial history highlighting Jamestown's 400th Anniversary should send their item to the newsletter editor as follows:

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Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

Or send an e-mail to
rcdhac@salisbury.edu

We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Hours & Closings

HOURS
Monday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

CLOSINGS
Labor Day - Monday, September 4
Thanksgiving - November 22-24
Winter Break - December 18-January 1, 2007

On the Cover: The color illustration is courtesy of John C. Lyon and used with his permission.

Shoreline

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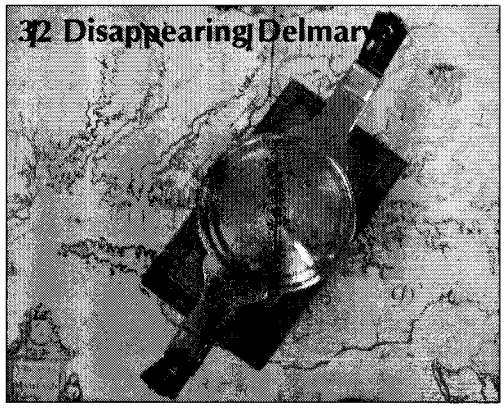

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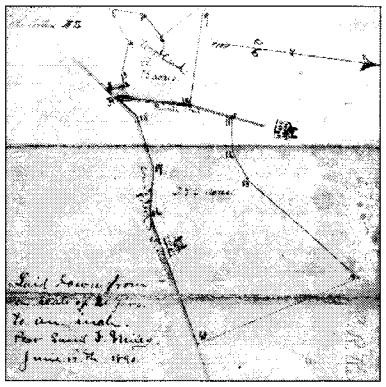

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Director, Rebecca F. Miller. *Research Assistant,* Aaron Horner. *Administrative Assistant,* Donna Messick. *Library Technician/Web Designer,* Iris Powell. *Graduate Assistants,* Matthew Heim and Matthew Mitchell. *Archivist,* Simone Myree. *Reading Room Coordinator,* James Jensen.

This issue and back issues of the *Shoreline* may be purchased for $10 each by contacting us at 410-543-6312 or rcdhac@salisbury.edu.

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Shoreline is published biannually by the Nabb Research Center, . 1101 Camden Ave., Salisbury, MD, 21801. Printed in the USA by the Publications Office, Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD.

Nabb News

Summer Student Interns

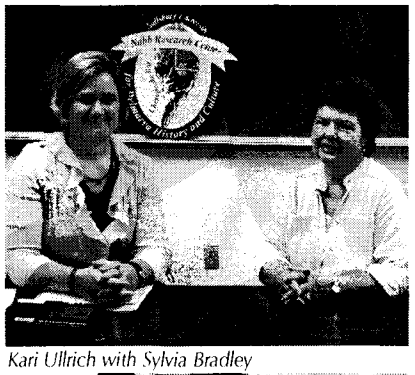
Melissa Arch is a history major and senior at Salisbury University. She is particularly interested in early modern European history and hopes to hone her research skills by learning to use primary documents at the Nabb Center. Her focus of study is researching how the Civil War affected the Eastern Shore in terms of the draft, rebellion and loyalty to the Union, as well as any other political or economical influences.

Gail Cinoski is a senior at Salisbury University. She is a history major and minors in both anthropology and art. She has interests in ancient history and would like to work in a research-based environment or museum after graduation. Gail is working on several projects at Nabb Center to gain experience in this field. One of the projects she has been working on is the data entry for an online searchable database with over 11,000 entries.

Kathleen Fichtel is a graduate of Salisbury University and received her master's degree in history this summer. She is working along side the Nabb Center's volunteer Polly Batchelder to complete the *Long Family Book* which was started by the late Mathew Wise.

Kari Ullrich is a Salisbury University senior and interned at the Nabb Center over the summer. She worked on several projects which included photographing the Center's extensive artifact collection for entry into the archival cataloging software, interviewing Ray Thompson and Sylvia Bradley (the past co-founders of the Center) and putting together materials for a pictorial history of the Center covering its 25 year existence.

Gail Cinoski



Kari Ullrich with Sylvia Bradley

Kathleen Fichtel works with Polly Batchelder

Melissa Arch

New Graduate Assistants

The Nabb Center welcomes Matthew Ryan Heim and Matthew Hudson Mitchel to the Center as this fall's newest addition as graduate research assistants.

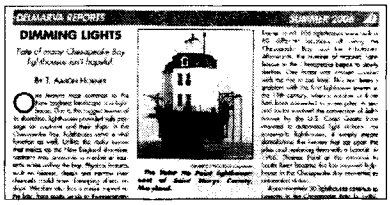
Researcher from Tidewater, VA, Finds Center Invaluable

Natasha Jones, an M.A. candidate in historical archaeology at The College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, VA, spent several weeks at the Nabb Center doing research for her thesis concerning identity and power on Maryland's 17th century Eastern Shore. Jones received her B.A. in May 2005 and expects to receive her master's degree in December 2006.

Natasha Jones

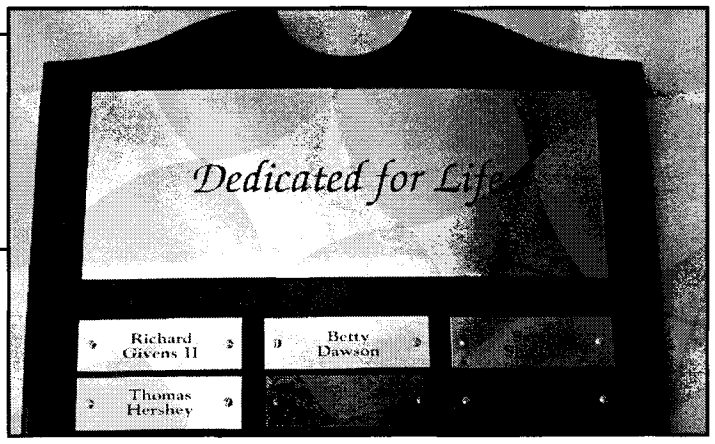
Aaron Horner Published

In an effort to further promote the Nabb Center, editors selected an article from a past *Shoreline* written by Aaron Horner and submitted it to *Delmarva Quarterly* for publication. They accepted the article and we found that a $200 remuneration came with it. The publication has requested a story on the Nabb Center itself (which we wanted), and we hope to submit periodic articles demonstrating the depth of resources found at the Nabb Center.



Dedicated for Life

The Nabb Research Center acknowledges four new life-time memberships received from Richard Givens II, Betty Dawson, Sarah Showell and Thomas Hershey. It is only through the commitment of our members and donors that the Nabb Center is able to remain a top tier research center for both students and public visitors alike.



Featured is the new Dedicated for Life plaque

In Memory Of

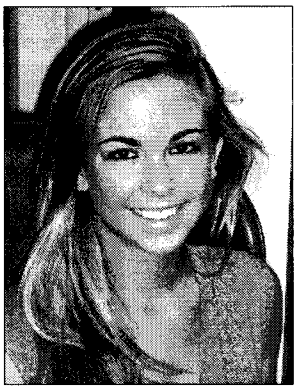
We are thankful for the kind donations made by Shad and Dottie Edwards given in memory of Dr. Francis Filipowicz and that of Marelynn Zipser given in memory of William Horsey Dennis and Elizabeth Koons Dennis.

To learn more about how to become a life-time member, or donor, or if you would like to set up a donation in memory of a dear friend or loved one, please contact the Nabb Center at 410-543-6312.

John Bozman: A Marylander

Miles-Stevenson Prize-Winning Essay

By C. Brooke Hollingsworth



The institutions of tradition and morality characterized Colonial society on Maryland's Eastern Shore in the 17th and 18th centuries. In many regards, the coastal colonies maintained the social norms of their mother nation. De jure moral expectations of English society, for example, were mirrored in Colonial law. Conversely, the *de facto* practices of Colonial life were slowly beginning to evolve into a system unique to the new settlements. As the foundations of the society were established, early settlers found increasing responsibility and obligation to familial and cultural structures. It is likely that there are countless stories similar to that of John Bozman, of Maryland's Somerset County, who assumed the responsibility of his family after the death of his father. When John was merely 15, he became the head of a newly settled, yet successful, household, thus forging the path of typical Colonial life. These circumstances, not foreign to Colonial society, led John Bozman to a life of early responsibility and success on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

John Bozman's story of young responsibility begins not in Maryland, but on the eastern shore Virginia, like many other early residents of the Maryland colony. William and Eleanor Bozman welcomed the first of five children, John, in August 1650 in Accomack County, VA. It is likely that the Bozmans were already established to a certain degree by the time of John's birth, as William was able, no more than 15 years later, to leave a will and testament bestowing an extensive amount of land. John was the first of two more sons and two daughters for the Bozman family. The next sibling, Bridgett, was born in July 1653, followed by William in 1655, Anne in 1657 and finally George in 1659. William and Eleanor relocated to Maryland when John was 13, where they subsequently acquired vast tracts of land in accordance with the headright system, which typically provided 50 acres for every individual that moved into the province. Accordingly, William would have been given 50 acres for himself, with an additional 50 for his wife and each child, amounting to 300 acres of land to begin his life in Maryland. Two years later, unfortunately, William died, leaving land to his sons, John and George. As was customary for the eldest son of the family, it is likely that John assumed a role of leadership within the home, helping to raise his siblings and care for the property. It was this experience that would lead John to an understanding of the elements of success in the early settlement.

Approximately six years after raising the family orphaned in the death of his father, John began his own family in Maryland. Blandina Bozman, formerly of Virginia, was transported to Maryland by John Bozman after their marriage, most likely in 1671, as her move was documented June 13, 1671. John was accordingly granted 50 acres for bringing his new wife into the county. The couple went on to have three sons and five daughters, a dynamic similar to the family John had helped to care for. Thus, the responsibility of fatherhood and social obligation in a newly forming society was not unmanageable for John. He was accordingly able to concentrate not only on his family, but also on the civic duties that would lead him to prosperity.

With time, it is likely that John continued to acquire land to accompany that which was given to him upon the death of his father in 1665. Through the consequent early responsibility, John learned to capitalize on the expectations held for him as a more affluent member of the early Eastern Shore. Reflective of his upstanding position within the colony, John was appointed to the position of coroner of the county, alongside Samuel Hopkins, as well as president of the county commission, documented November 10, 1713. Through his position on the county commission John was present at a great deal of the court cases heard within Maryland at the time, ranging from trials of bastardies to common civil trials. Such respectable positions maintained John Bozman's image as a young responsible colonist.

John's efforts to maintain the legacy of land and good standing left by his father were made visible during his lifetime, but the information provided by the documents of his death offers deeper insight into the life of responsibility and commitment he led. Before his death John was of the means to sign a tract of land to his son George, which he and Blandina did in March 1711. The family had, by that point, been established within the colony for a number of years and thus had the means to provide for their children. Perhaps more importantly, the inventory of John Bozman's possessions reveals further the amount of prosperity that he was able to achieve for himself and his family. Mysteriously, the inventory for John's possessions was not filed until three years after appraisement. Perhaps even more concerning is the fact that his three sons—William, George and Risdon—were present at the appraisement but would not sign the list. Perhaps discrepancy arose regarding the value of the possessions, or the possessions themselves. Whatever the case may have been, it was clear that the family lived comfortably according to the standards of the period.

From the list, it is clear that the Bozmans were affluent to the extent that they acquired five negro slaves, as well as one white servant. The household also had enough provisions for each of the children, with additional accompaniments, such as the 20 chairs listed, that seem fit for social entertaining. Such social activity seems appropriate for a public figure such as the president of the county commission. Furthermore, the parcel of books within the home provides evidence of John's literacy, a characteristic certainly not commonplace during this period. In addition to the comforts found within the home, John's abundance was evident in his possession of a number of livestock and equipment, including three horses, 24 hogs, 16 cattle and 14 sheep. It is likely that John's possessions were dispersed among his vast amounts of land, which, upon his death in 1716, were divided among his children.

The final will and testament of John Bozman of Somerset County is the ultimate consecration of his commitment to his family and the life he led. Within the will, written and signed by John himself, the remaining land of the "More and Case It" property is divided among his children. He first bequeathed the land unto his sons George and John. He secondarily stipulated another area of the property for his loving wife during her natural life, after which the land was given unto their son Risdon. In addition to providing for his sons after his death, John stipulated that the lawfully begotten male heirs of his daughters, Anne and Bridgett, would also attain part of the property. This specification shows John's dedication to his family, as well as to the code of moral conduct; he assured even in death that no unlawful, or bastard, sons of his children would acquire his respectable legacy. John continued to bestow land to his son William and his heirs, cousins William and George. Goods within the home, specifically the parlor chamber, were left to his daughters on conditions of marriage. Although the specific items within his last will and testament are not unduly revealing, John makes his commitment to his land and to his family evident.

Like many young colonists before and after him, John Bozman led a life of respectable commitment to family and society. He maintained the legacy of his father from an early age and learned to capitalize on the opportunities he met in a land of endless possibilities. While he may not have sculpted history to the extent of more widely known figures, it was men and women like John Bozman that cultivated the society that has grown into the Maryland of today. Through early responsibility John was able to shape the earliest years of the colony along with fellow settlers. John Bozman was Maryland.

C. Brooke Hollingsworth, Salisbury University history student, is from Denton, MD, and studies history and secondary education.

Focus On Student Research

For Dilly

By Tony Russo

An old woman, an ex-slave, poses for what will probably be the only photo ever taken of her in her life. She is at the very least in her 70s but still carries the kind of dignity usually attributed to people who've earned respect and deference by virtue of their age. It's not long after the turn of the century, and the photographer would have told her to keep completely still while he exposed the negative. She blinks as he does so, her only photograph marred by the absence of a gaze; at least her portrait will be preserved. Sometime during the next 75 years someone wrote "Aunt Dilly Dennis" on the back of the picture. One-hundred years later I was assigned to see if I could find out who she was.

The picture was yellowed with age. The photocopy I had was nearly four times the size of the original picture, large enough to give the kind of detail that can only be improved upon with a magnifying glass and the original photo. Dilly is an ancient woman, her neck is wrinkled and her face is tight-skinned and gaunt, reminiscent of an uncovered Egyptian king. I do the math quickly in my head and decide that she was certainly alive during slavery and was likely a former slave.

There is another picture, Dilly as a young woman behind Beckford Mansion in Princess Anne, MD. It is certainly a more candid a shot than the first; Dilly in the dooryard on a sunny afternoon. She's wearing her housekeeper's apron. Unfortunately although she looks directly into the camera, the top half of her face is primarily in shadow. I guess there'll be no long-winded description of Dilly's eyes. There is a dog with her. His name is Jack. We're not sure how we know this.

So the working hypothesis begins as something like this: Dilly was a faithful servant (probably a slave turned domestic) who stayed with the house she served even after it changed hands. She must have been integral to the household for them to have taken and saved two pictures of her. But before I went too far with my hypotheses, I had to find out what Dilly's real name was.

Probably, it was Delia, although it could have been Adelia or Delilah. Although Google and several baby naming books differed slightly on questions of origin, some even treating Dilly as a given name, the choices were pretty much limited to those three. I tried "Dilly" on the census search engine and had come up empty, ditto Adelia, ditto Delilah. The 1870 Census gave me only one Delia Dennis, aged 35.

I clicked on the link and brought up the scanned 1870 Census page. The handwriting wasn't terrible and the page was, for the most-part smudge free. I found just enough information to keep me chasing Aunt Dilly around Beckford for a month. She was indeed listed as 35, so she could have been photographed not long after this and still have been quite old looking by the 20th century. She was recorded not a page away from the Beckford house occupant at the time, Sallie Dennis. The only problem was, she was listed as "Insane."

This tiny fact only discouraged me a bit. Insane, after all can be widely interpreted. It could have meant that she was an eccentric, (the romantic in me hoped that she was some sort of local witch) or even epileptic or possessed of Tourette's Syndrome. The 19th century conception of insane was way too loose to scrap the whole project. I had pretty good starting evidence and very little reason to doubt that Aunt Dilly, insane or not, was interesting enough to have endeared herself to whomever happened to be occupying Beckford. There was even precedence for this.

Many slaves took work in their same or similar positions after manumission and got on quite famously with their masters-cum-employers. According to a family history, this was the case at the Beverly Mansion in nearby Pocomoke. It contains a photograph of three former slaves in the backyard of Beverly and a photograph of Mrs. Dennis, the owner at the time. The picture heads a section about how many of the Dennis' slaves chose to return after seeking their fortune following the end of the Civil War and emancipation because of how well they'd been treated and how much they liked Beverly.

It all seemed pretty clear to me. Delia Dennis had once been owned by the same Dennis family that had had so many slaves stay with them after the war; she was from a tradition and decided to stay with the Dennis'. After all, they owned Beckford at the end of the war. She probably stayed on and when the Dennis' sold out to the H.M. Lankford in 1897 to help run the house. Maybe she even lived in one of the Beckford Avenue tenant houses built specifically for this purpose.

Of course, there was still a problem with the timing of the photographs. Why would the Lankford's have kept the picture if the Dennis' had taken it? There are several volumes of Dennis family history; they obviously have a significant tradition of genealogical documentation and passing down photos. I reasoned that the first photo must have been a gift to Dilly and, since she stayed with the house, so did it.

The matter was of little consequence. Ross J. Kelbaugh, a historian and author of the book *African-American Photographs*, would be appraising and discussing photos at Salisbury University and I was confident that if he could date the pictures, the rest would fall into place. In the mean time, I thought I'd start at closer to the present and work backward.

Henry Fillmore Lankford was a lawyer and a merchant. He came into possession of Beckford through some kind of civil arrangement with Sallie Dennis' estate. His business ledgers were available and I looked through them in hopes of finding his household costs. There were none. There was, however, reference to John Upshur Dennis' inventory. I happened upon it quite by accident while looking through the Lankford/Dennis archive lists. I was compelled once again to focus on pre-Civil War Maryland.

John Upshur Dennis died in 1851. In 1851 slaves were property and listed as such on their owner's inventory. At the time of his death, John Upshur Dennis' had more than 50 slaves spread about on different sections of his property. Twenty-three year old slave, Delia, was "On James U. Dennis place." The only trouble is that John Dennis Jr. (a cousin) lived at Beckford at the time; James lived across town. There were many good guesses I could make about the relationship between Delia's presence on James' place in 1851 and her "move" to Beckford before 1860 but not enough evidence for a solid inference. I needed additional raw, objective data. I returned to the U.S. Census.

The census wasn't taken in quite the scientific way that one might expect from period to period. Although it is safe to assume that people near to one another on any particular page resided in close proximity, since the enumeration routes tended to vary, pages numbers don't correlate from census to census. A person on page one of the 1870 U.S. Census could easily be on page 68 of 1880s.

This posed a particular problem because the 1880 Census is not indexed. That is, it can't be searched by last name, even with a computer. It has to be read page by page, as does the 1860 Slave Census; the 1890 Census isn't available at all. In going through the 1860 Slave Census I discovered James U. Dennis listed twice. This isn't uncommon as the slaves were counted by territory, not by ownership. There are 23 slaves on one of James' places and 17 on another across town.

It is reasonable to believe that at some point after the death of his John Upshur Dennis Sr. and his cousin, John Jr., James had at least something to do with the welfare of Beckford. John senior's will called for a division of land but didn't make specific provision for the distribution of his slaves. Maybe the cousins worked something out where James retained *de facto* ownership of the slaves, but they resided and worked at John Jr.'s place.

This sounds plausible, but since the Slave Census included age and sex but not slave names it doesn't show how Delia moved across town. There are females of the right ages in both lists. What I like to think is that the

smaller number of slaves was at Beckford (there is a loose correlation of owner's names that remained in the Beckford neighborhood) and that as a useful, if eccentric, domestic, Delia was placed where she could do the most good.

Having exhausted pre-Emancipation sources (for real this time) I returned to look through the Lankford Collection in the archives and was rewarded with a tantalizing gift from a lady. Ida Marshall Lankford kept a diary and it survived. The odds of finding a diary related, even tangentially, to your research approach nil. I felt as if I'd won the lottery and as I waited for the book to arrive I worked out a fantasy in which Delia played the Nurse to Ida's Juliet. I realized how outrageous this conjecture was and reeled my hopes in to include at least a mention of Delia, maybe even a weekly salary-for-duties, or possibly even Jack the dog.

Meanwhile, Professor Kelbaugh, the photograph expert, had dated the picture of the very old lady with "Aunt Dilly Dennis" written on the back circa 1905 and the picture of the young lady circa 1910. They could not be the same lady. Interestingly, it didn't change the time-line I had begun to construct to any great degree, and it in fact helped a little bit because the information came just in time to prepare me for a particular twist documented in Ida Marshall Lankford's diary among her daily minutia.

Ida Marshall raised my hopes and broke my heart in April 1894. My hopes were raised by this entry: 4/2/94 "I am my own cook today." Why would she mention this unless she normally had a servant cook for her. The Delia Dennis of the 1870 and 1880 Census had her occupation listed as "Waiter." Maybe she was a day-laborer, working where she could get short-term domestic work. There must have been a significant supply of cheap domestic labor in the 1890s, so Delia filled the niche of substitute waiter. If she lived in the centrally located Beckford Tenant houses, she could have worked in many of the different large households in the area. Maybe on April 2 she was stretched too thin to help Ida with her cooking. If this was the case, Ida would certainly mention her some other time in the text.

Then, on April 4 came the crushing blow: "Betsy here today, this makes 7 days she has helped me. I paid her $2.00 + credited balance $1.50 on cloak" BETSY? Where was Delia? Was she sick? No amount of wishing will get Elizabeth and Delia to be the same name. But maybe it wasn't as crushing as I feared, after all, how many Elizabeth's could there have been in Somerset County? I decided to check and see if what began as a digression in my research might give me a clue to the "young" Aunt Dilly's identity.

There were three Elizabeth's in West Princess Anne. Elizabeth Grimes aged 47 was a laundress for hire residing 13 pages away from Beckford. Elizabeth Bowland, aged 65, was a "laundress at house" residing two pages away from Beckford as was Elizabeth Banks, aged 57, who lived on the same page as Beckford. Banks was the mother of Woodard W. Privatt, a teacher who'd brought her to Princess Anne from North Carolina sometime after 1901. Having to choose between these three women, I'd expect that Mrs. Banks, who could read and write, and lived just next door is the most likely candidate to be "Betsy."

Ida Marshall Langford didn't keep a very romantic diary. It was really just a list of household and community occurrences. Her prose, as well of the choice of topics gives her much more a "mistress of the plantation" tone than could possibly be fair. I kept trying to remember that this was mainly a household diary, not a reflective one. I guess I was still attached to the idea of some sort of closeness with the "young Aunt Dilly." If the young Aunt Dilly was really the middle aged Betsy Banks, relatively new in town, literate and full of stories from the Antebellum South, it wouldn't surprise me at all to discover that she spent an amount of time working at her neighbor's house as domestic/entertainer. And if this was the case, what could be more logical for a wealthy family, newly possessed of a camera than to take her picture? I like to think Ida took it herself. An armateur certainly might not considered the position of the sun.

There was only one other clue in Ida Marshall Lankford's diary it went like this: "Mrs. Legg and Delia came today." A consultation of the Census data gave me the impression that Ida was toying with me. There is no Legg family in the region on the 1870 or 1900 Census. There appears to be one in Somerset County on the 1880 census, but it is so faint that I have to wonder if my desire to find them overrode by ability to decipher the letters. Maybe I imposed the words where they didn't exist.

I consulted Henry Fillmore Lankford's ledgers and discovered he did some small but regular business with a Mr. H. Legg during the 1880s, but have concluded that the Leggs were not residents but rather occasional visitors to the area, possibly from Talbot County. Point is—their Delia cannot be my Dilly.

In an act of frustration, I checked the 1900 U.S. Census for old women named Dennis in Somerset County. The oldest Dennis at the turn of the century was Millie Dennis and if your hopes are now as high as mine were, you're as destined to be disappointed as I was. Millie lived with her daughter Secelia Stockley in the Brinkley District of Somerset County. Secelia (or Cecelia) and although 54 years old in 1900, she did not appear on any other Census available in the country before or after that; there are a couple Millie Dennis' throughout, but they are generally the wrong age, location or maternal status (one had a significant number of children whose names could no more be stretched to fit Secelia than Betsy could be stretched to fit Dilly).

Aunt Dilly Dennis was probably my "Insane" ex-slave from the 1870 Census. She may not have "lived" anywhere, but because of her particular eccentricities she stayed with whoever would let her, either in trade for work or, as she got older, in deference to her age. Maybe she didn't blink during the photo but was blind and a kind of "ward of the community." But the idea I like best is that she was a character, so full of an endearing wit and wisdom that someone decided that she ought to be immortalized on film. I especially like to think that the original photographer's and my attempt to nail her down would make her laugh.

Tony Russo, Salisbury University student, interned at the Nabb Center in spring 2006 through the English Department.

Diary of a River

With the help of the Nabb Center's staff and volunteers, 15 children with the Maryland Summer Center for Gifted and Talented Students Program researched primary documents at the Nabb Center. Each child was given a person who had a connection with Pemberton Hall to research. After finding the required material on the first visit, the students were eager to locate additional material on the second visit.

In addition to performing chores, preparing a meal and wearing clothing of the Colonial period, the children heard Dr. Clara Small of Salisbury University's History Department explain slavery and Dawn Manyfeathers discuss uses of plants in the area. After receiving instruction in militia drilling on the last day of the program, the students marched to the shade of a tree at Pemberton Hall to give an oral presentation on the materials gathered at the Nabb Research Center and on observations made during the week.

The week-long program in June was organized by Bill Wilson, the history coordinator and chair for the Pemberton Hall Foundation; Thelma Merrill, head of education at Pemberton Hall; and Pat Taylor, the research coordinator; and it was sponsored by the Maryland State Department of Education, Pemberton Hall Foundation, the Wicomico County Board of Education and the Nabb Research Center.

Spotlight on Collections

The Borders and Boundaries of Athletic Life on the Eastern Shore

By Simone Myree

Bellow is a partial transcript from an oral history interview conducted July 12, 2004, through the Teaching American History grant and the cooperation of the Wicomico County Board of Education, Salisbury University and the Nabb Research Center at Salisbury University.

This provides an intimate portrait of the borders and boundaries of athletic life and sports on the Eastern Shore as told by William Miles. Miles is a retired teacher and education administrator for Wicomico and Somerset counties and has played and coached baseball on the Shore for the better part of 70 years. He talks about baseball, segregated leagues and All-Star games–all from an African-American perspective.

Interviewer - July 12, 2004, personal interview with William Miles.

Interviewer: Mr. Miles tell me a little bit about your background please.
Mr. Miles: Okay. I was born in Princess Anne, MD, 1933. I am 70 years old. My parents are from the area. They were born and raised in Somerset County. My father passed away in '99. My mother is 88 years old, and she doing better than all of us. I am the oldest of 11 brothers and sisters, seven boys and four girls. I have a master's in math education from Atlanta University. I did my undergraduate work at North Carolina A&T.

Interviewer: When did you graduate from A&T?
Mr. Miles: I graduated from A&T in 1956.

Interviewer: You had six years in relation to the, you know, the sit ins.
Mr. Miles: Oh yes. Yes. Yes. There were rumblings at that time. Rumblings from the various students. There were rumblings from various factions there. Students had platforms that um, whose theme was integration when they were running for different offices in and around the school. I remember the [inaudible] 1955 [inaudible] her platform was, we were going to integrate all of the facilities. It didn't come about during the time I was at A&T, but I identified with [inaudible].

I am a father of three children. My wife passed away in 2001 after 42 years of marriage.

Interviewer: She was an educator too?
Mr. Miles: She was in education. [inaudible] CPA that taught at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She taught at Clark University in Atlanta. She taught at Morris State University and she ended up having her own CPA business in Princess Anne. She had to give that up because of her health.

My hobbies and leisure activities has been tied to sports. I've always wanted to be involved in sports. I wanted to compete, not that I had no skills that would allow me to play professionally then I wanted to coach.

Interviewer: [inaudible] Does that disappoint you?
Mr. Miles: No. Not having the skills. There was nothing I could do about that. I milked my skills for everything that I could and with the little bit of skill that I had I was able to get a scholarship in baseball. I was able to play baseball in the army and I had a lifetime of playing baseball.

Interviewer: One of the things I have in the series of questions I have on achievements is the following: Is that on the Eastern Shore was baseball the only ... Was that the big game?

Mr. Miles: When I was growing up it was the big game primarily because it was easy to get into. Every community had a baseball team when I was growing up. There were white baseball teams. There were black baseball teams. Every hammock, every village, every community had a baseball team. When I was growing up in my community, it was the [inaudible] Eagles. In Princess Anne it was the Princess Hawks. You had teams in Deals Island. You had a team in Denton. You had teams in Pocomoke. You had teams here in Salisbury. Fruitland. You had two teams in Salisbury. All the way out there.

We would have a schedule of baseball games from Easter Monday, is when we would usually started playing cause it was warm enough then, and we would play all the way until it got cold in October. And of course, our games were tied to the weekends. We played Saturday, maybe Sunday and holidays. Matter of fact, I got married on Saturday, September the 5th there, which was the Saturday before Labor Day. We had a double hitter that Saturday. I missed the first game to get married, but I played the second game much to the chagrin of my wife. We had a double header that Sunday and we had a double header that Monday, and I went to work that Tuesday.

Interviewer: You've left major league ball and were [inaudible] vice principal for 10 years and retired in 2000. Tell me just a little bit about what you are doing in retirement.
Mr. Miles: I retired in 2000 after 44 years in education. Having taught at the college level and high school level there. I went into ministry in '99 and continued in ministry to the present day. I am starting my sixth year in ministry on a [inaudible] charge in Marion Station, MD, there.

It was a natural step for me in that I've always liked working with people. I've always considered myself a servant to the people, and I thought that being in ministry was an opportunity to give back to the community because I had taken so much out of the community before. I had found it to be very, very challenging and very rewarding.

Simone Myree, SU archivist, is dedicated to the Center's goal of properly preserving the past.

Volunteer Needed!

The late Ron Massey donated his comprehensive Eastern Shore book collection to us, which was a wonderful gift. We are in need of a volunteer to interfile Mr. Massey's books in our duplicate book room. Our policy is to keep one duplicate of each book on the shelf as a replacement but to sell (with permission of donor) triplicate copies.

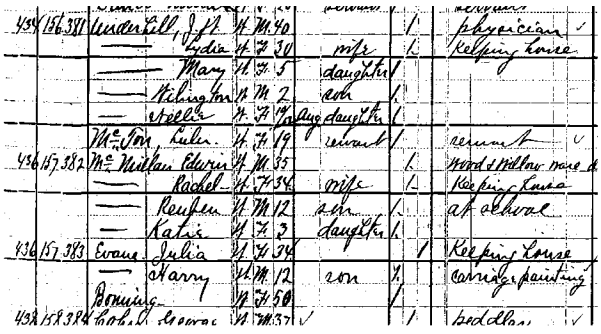
We anticipate advertising a book sale to generate income for new materials once these books are interfiled.

If you can help by donating a few hours please contact Pat Taylor with your availability at 410-543-6312.

Treasure of Reflections Saved: The Civil War Diary of Dr. Joshua Underhill

By Christopher Morrs

Joshua Whittington Underhill was born on January 11, 1837, in Quindocqua, Somerset County, MD. His father was Thomas Henry Underhill, born in 1814 in Somerset County, son of Thomas and Leah (Powell) Underhill. His mother was Eleanor Connor Whittington, born about 1811, also in Somerset County, daughter of Thomas Wishart Whittington and Sarah S. (Connor) Whittington.



Dr. Underhill and Family, 1880 U.S. Census, Hamilton County, Ohio.

About 1840, Joshua and his parents set off for Missouri but halted in Belmont County, eastern Ohio, when Joshua's mother died in childbirth, as did the baby. Thomas left his young son in the care of a childless couple, John and Eleanor Gilbert. Census records show that Thomas ended up in Brown County, OH, where he remarried and had three daughters.

The Gilberts, soon to move to nearby Fairview, in Guernsey County, brought up young Joshua who proved bright but not disposed to becoming a farmer. He taught school briefly in his teens, earning enough money to attend Madison College in Antrim, OH, for two years. He then decided to study medicine. In a day before licensure when medical schools were in their infancy and often remote, many physicians got their training from a medical preceptor, a doctor already in practice. Dr. Jeremiah Townsend McPherson, Mrs. Gilbert's orphaned nephew, gave Underhill his early training. In the 1860-61 year, Underhill went to Cincinnati to complete his training at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. Lured to northern Indiana probably by two of his medical school professors, a father and son who lived there, he established a practice in Burnettsville in July 1861. This was short-lived. In October 1861, he enlisted as a private in Company E, 46th Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, almost immediately becoming a hospital steward.

In December, the Indiana 46th then went south to Camp Wickliffe in Kentucky. From this marshalling post, they gradually moved down the Mississippi River, arriving in Helena, AK, in July 1862. There, in October, Underhill began a diary that he kept until late July 1863 when he lost it. Because he had carefully inscribed his name and "Fairview, Guernsey County, Ohio" in it, he was infinitely pleased when a Mr. C.J. Jennings, rummaging through a relative's war mementoes, found it and sent it back in November 1873. "On this day came the long lost pages," Underhill wrote. ""Twas like meeting an old friend and brought fresh to mind many recollections of those 'days which tried men's souls'... . They keep open in memory and heart scenes through which I hope our country will never again be called to pass. Verily truth is stranger than fiction, for never did I dream of seeing again these pages written while I was gipsying down in Dixie."

In his mid 20s, single, lonely and far from home, he corresponded with "home," with several young ladies and with relatives. On December 23, 1862, he notes, "Yesterday wrote a letter to my aunt Rachel [Underhill] Johnson a resident of Snow Hill, Worcester Co; Maryland. I have never seen her and have not heard from her directly for many years." She wrote him back. On January 27, 1863, "Rec'd a letter from home, also one from Aunt Rachel Johnson of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland." Underhill corresponded frequently with a first cousin, George T. Wilson, the son of his mother's sister, Betsy (Whittington) Wilson. The oldest of seven, he was a farmer and waterman who bought out his siblings' shares in the 200-acre Wilson homestead in Burnettsville, MD. He and his wife, Emma Louise Garrison, are buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Marion, MD.

On March 26, 1863, Underhill "Wrote a long letter home few days ago. Also rec'd one from George T. Wilson resident of Burnettsville Somerset County Maryland—represents my friend Elijah Ward as going Secesh." Elijah Smith Ward Jr. (1836-1921), from Quindocqua, was enlisted as a private at Pensacola by Captain F.H. Robertson and joined Captain Dent's Battery, Light Artillery, a unit raised directly by the CSA since Confederate units could not be raised in Maryland. Ward is also buried in St. Paul's Cemetery in Marion, MD.

New Year's Eve brought a time for reflection, and Underhill's diary entry for December 31, 1862, written at Helena, reflects the sadness the war inflicted upon so many:

> This night closes the old year—"Tempus fugit—" It has been a year of blood. Mighty armies have met in battle, and blood—aye—the blood of brothers has been made to flow in torrents over the ashes of our parents. Often, in years to come when we who have been actors in the stirring scenes of the present are sleeping with the pale sheeted nations of the dead, others will rehearse to their listening progeny the events of 1862. The historian will record them upon his pictured page. They will be the burden of the poet's song, and the theme of the orator's discourse. The writer of fiction will come hither and find ample material for his pen. The artist's pencil will paint and his genius transfer to canvas many a moving scene of this eventful year, while the chisil [sic] will mark them on the ever-enduring marble, which, pale, and passionless, will speak them as classic truths to nations yet unborn.
>
> This has been a year of sorrow and weeping! The place of many a father and husband has been made vacant in the family circle. Many a noble youth, who, a year ago, was the idol of loving parents, the center of fond hopes, and trusting hearts, is now sleeping by the bloody field where he fell in battle. Many a foot, that, a year ago, was swift in the merry dance, is now motionless in death's cold mansion.
>
> The last day of the old year has come, the recording angel, in a few hours more, will render his account, and 1862 will be no more. We are about to turn another leaf of life's little volume, and for aught I've known ere another elapses, we may read on the leaf now turning—Finis.

January 6, 1863, brought a historic entry: "Rec'd President's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Politics, Religion and Money in the Maryland-Virginia Boundary Dispute

by Doris W. Gelbman

Religion, politics and the pursuit of profit played important roles in the early boundary disputes between Maryland and Virginia. The extent, to which this is so, can be shown by examining the actions of three of the major players in Maryland and Virginia's early settlement of the Eastern Shore. Looking at the conduct of Lord Baltimore, Captain William Claibourne and Colonel Edmund Scarburgh will show that religion, politics and particularly money were the prime motivators in the settlement of these two colonies and the cause of many of their early boundary disputes.

The earliest roots of the Maryland-Virginia boundary dispute can be found in the formation of these colonies. To the British, the New World consisted primarily of Virginia. Virginia's first charter, issued in 1606, fixed her boundaries between the 34th and the 45th parallels and 100 miles inland. In Virginia's second charter (1609), these boundaries were modified, thus dividing British North America into two colonies, the Virginia Company of London and Plymouth Company. These boundaries overlapped between the 38th and 41st parallels, a feature which was designed to offer an incentive for each colony to settle this area as quickly as possible. Virginia's charter also included a provision for local resident councils to manage the day-to-day affairs of the Colony. A Royal Provisional Council, however, also oversaw the management of Virginia and consisted of 13 members appointed by the king. This royal council had the power to veto any decisions made by the local councils. Detailed guidelines for the management of trade, customs, duties and taxes are also laid out in Virginia's charter.

Interestingly, George Calvert (later Lord Baltimore), as early as 1609, appeared as a member of the Virginia Company. Indeed, he was also appointed to the Provisional Council for the Management of Virginia. Thus, long before the grant of Maryland's Charter in 1632, Calvert had access to information and reports from the Virginia Colony giving him advance knowledge of what actions and provisions might positively influence subsequent settlements. This would better prepare him for his own later Colonial ventures, though not without some early mistakes of his own.

Calvert was a valued member of Court of King James I. He became the king's secretary of state until rising animosity toward Catholics in Britain forced him to step down after he publicly announced his Catholicism in 1624. Nonetheless, James I ordered Calvert to remain on the King's Privy Council and knighted Calvert as Lord Baltimore. The king took these actions despite the animosity amongst other court members against Calvert's avowed Catholicism. Calvert remained on the Privy Council until after James death when he was released from his court duties by King Charles I, James I successor in 1625.

At this time, knowledge of the geography of the New World had been derived primarily from the early explorations of John Smith. Britain's monarchs, with very little knowledge of the geography of the New World, began issuing land grants to those they favored, including George Calvert, the first Lord of Baltimore. The land grant for Maryland, bitterly opposed by Virginians as it infringed on their claims, is very clear. Maryland's boundaries are set forth with precision given what was known of the region. Maryland's charter set the boundaries from specific sites such as Watkin's Point, Cape Charles, Delaware Bay and west to the "first fountaine of the River Patowmeck" (Potomac). Why, then, did the boundary question plague these two colonies for more than 200 years?

Accounts of the 17th century boundary disputes described in Jenning Cropper Wise's *Ye Kingdome of Accawmacke* and Charles Clark's *Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia* place considerable emphasis on the religious differences of the day. Religious motivations in the boundary dispute also are found in a letter dated November 30, 1629, from several Virginians, among them one W. Claybourne, published in the Maryland Archives. In this letter, the gentlemen of Virginia inform the British Crown that Lord Baltimore has arrived in Virginia Colony following his recently failed plantation in Newfoundland. They express their distress that Lord Baltimore, stating he is of the "Romishe Religion," refused to take an oath of "Supremacie and Aleidgance to his Lordshipps." They were alarmed at this invasion of members of the "Popish persuasion." Claibourne, however, is more concerned in protecting his commercial interests. Claibourne has already set himself up quite comfortably and wore many hats within the Virginia settlements including surveyor, trader, soldier and planter. Apparently, he had already accumulated some wealth for he had acquired several luxurious items by the standard of this earliest of Colonial periods. He had imported for his household: sheets, napkins, tablecloths, prayerbooks and cushions for a chapel, and some 20 servants. What Claibourne did not seem to realize was that Lord Baltimore's influence with the king was far greater than that of any of the Virginians who remained out of sight and out of mind. Claiborne's lack of influence with the king was not too surprising since Claibourne was known to have been a strong supporter of Parliament against King James I while attending Cambridge University back in Britain.

Despite Lord Baltimore's influence at court, only 20 months after Lord Baltimore's first visit to Virginia, Claibourne received from the king an exclusive license to trade anywhere "...where there is not already a patent granted to others..." on May 16, 1631.

Earlier, while Claibourne was protesting Lord Baltimore's visit to Virginia, Lord Baltimore related to the king his failure to establish his colony in Newfoundland. There, Lord Baltimore's first attempt at establishing a plantation in the New World turned out to be a dismal failure due to unforeseen weather conditions. Lord Baltimore, despite protestations from Claibourne and the other Virginians, asked King Charles for a new land grant to be established out of existing British North American colonies. Before Maryland's Charter can be issued in 1632, however, George Calvert dies. Cecil Calvert, Lord Baltimore's eldest son and heir, received his titles, his properties and Maryland's grant and charter. The second Lord Baltimore never saw the new colony due to court intrigues in England. One

reason Lord Baltimore was forced to remain in England was the opposition he faced in London from men of the original Virginia Company. The Virginia Company's charter was revoked by the king when Virginia's profitability had become questionable. The other members of the Virginia Company saw Lord Baltimore's machinations in London as a direct threat to their existence.

In addition to the political intrigues between Lord Baltimore and the men of the original Virginia Company, differences between Marylanders and Virginians, including territorial claims, can be traced to the religious differences in England during the mid-1600s. This is foreshadowed in Claibourne's aforementioned letter complaining of Lord Baltimore's Catholicism. Civil war in Britain was on the horizon, Virginia was mainly Protestant Church of England and later developed a considerable Puritan population. The Calvert family in Maryland, and in particular Lord Baltimore, are Catholics. The tension over religious matters in Britain had a direct impact on animosity between the two colonies.

In his efforts to provide a religious sanctuary for Catholics, the first Lord Baltimore's proprietary system reflected a desire to model his Palantine colony after the earldoms of Britain over which he would have complete control. The Maryland Charter granted to him was extremely generous in its terms. Except where designated to the king, Lord Baltimore was granted "The true and absolute Lord, and Proprietaries of the Countrey aforesaid." Moreover, Lord Baltimore was required to pay the king only a token of two Indian arrowheads per year for all the crown's generosity. Lord Baltimore was free to enact any laws that he saw fit, appoint whatever judges or officers he liked and release or pardon whatever criminals he chose. Lord Baltimore was further given leave to transport settlers, raise militias, conduct trade, collect taxes or duties and he could control completely all import and export trade. In short, Lord Baltimore was free to profit from his domain as he pleased. This is in stark contrast to the rigidly controlled Virginia Charter, later revoked in favor of a Royal Charter, which may be one of the many reasons that the Virginians so violently opposed the new colony of Maryland. One of the most intriguing provisions of Lord Baltimore's charter–and it should be noted that Maryland's Charter was written by Lord Baltimore himself for the king's seal–is in the very last section. It states, "if perchance hereinafter it should happen, that any doubts or questions should arise, concerning the true sence and understanding of any word ... shall be judged most advantageous and favourable unto the said now Lord Baltemore ..." This seems to forestall Claibourne and other troublemakers right from the outset. It turned out that it would not to be that simple to settle disputes.

With grant in hand, the second Lord Baltimore (Cecil) set about organizing the first voyage to Maryland. Maryland's original settlers who sailed on the *Ark* and *Dove* had ambitions no different from their proprietor: to enrich themselves. They were like most Colonial immigrants of the time in that the political, economic and social situation in Britain was pushing them to leave, while the attractions of the New World pulled them to the new colonies. Yet, highest among Maryland's early settlers' goals, they listed neither religious freedom nor political liberty, but "pursuit of earthly gain."

Despite Lord Baltimore's concern for religious toleration, it is clear even in the very early accounts of Father White, a Jesuit priest who was among the first Maryland settlers, that Lord Baltimore, his settlers and the Virginians were far more concerned with money, trade and profit. In his account, Father White described the settlers, led by Leonard Calvert (Cecil's brother) as they arrive in Virginia. The new Marylanders first landed at Port Comfort, VA, "fill of apprehension lest the English inhabitants, who were much displeased at our settling, should be plotting something against us." Their fears proved unfounded as the Virginians had been commanded by King Charles in an earlier letter to treat the Marylanders well and help them in every way. White then described the friendly greeting they received but adds that it comes as the result of Virginia's governor hoping that "by his kindness towards us [White and the others], he would more easily recover from the Royal Treasury a large sum of money which was due him." The Virginians re-supplied the ships and even provided an interpreter to deal with the Indians. This unnamed interpreter, however, had already been influenced by the troublemaking Claibourne whose name appears in White's account as having spoken to the translator against the Maryland settlers.

Claibourne had become a thorn in Lord Baltimore's side by this time, agitating against the Marylanders and claiming rights to his island post as a Virginian. Lord Baltimore, in turn made matters worse when he attempted to assert his sovereignty over Claibourne. Claibourne was by then well established at his trading post on Kent Island. Claibourne did not back down; in numerous petitions and letters, both Claibourne and his London backers accused Lord Baltimore of shooting at and harassing Claibourne's traders. For his part, Lord Baltimore, denounced Claibourne for his "malicious behavior to me and my plantation there." The king, in an effort to settle matters, confirmed Claibourne's license to trade in the area unmolested by all including Lord Baltimore.

Armed with this letter, Claibourne, continued to trade until one of his ships, the unarmed *Long Tayle* was boarded by Lord Baltimore's men in waters near St. Mary's. Baltimore's men questioned Claiborne's captain, demanding to know by what right he was trading in Maryland territory. The captain stated they are there "by vertue of his Majesties Commission and letter graunted to Captain Claiborne" and presented a copy of the letter to Lord Baltimore's troops who were commanded by Captain Humber and Henry Fleet. Humber and Fleet rejected this and promptly put many of Claibourne's men ashore and confiscated the *Long Tayle*. Claibourne in return fully armed his ships in anticipation of further conflict. He was not disappointed.

Shortly thereafter in a battle where Claibourne's boat *Cockatrice* is hopelessly outmanned by Lord Baltimore's *St. Helen* and *St. Margeret*, Claibourne's forces were quickly defeated. This marked the first armed territorial dispute between Maryland and Virginia. Ironically, it took place at the mouth of the Pocomoke, not far from the site where a later troublemaker would again dispute the Maryland-Virginia boundary. Other battles soon followed and the governor of Virginia, siding with Lord Baltimore soon found himself in trouble with his own subjects. Governor John Harvey was quickly exiled back to London by his own subjects until things could be resolved. The Virginians accused their governor of siding with Lord Baltimore against Claibourne by attempting to carry out the king's orders to assist the Marylanders. But the underlying motivation for the Virginian's rebellion against their own governor can be seen in their accusations against him. They accuse him of abusing his powers legislatively and of assessing unfair levies as well as controlling the Colonial revenue. They further accuse him of appropriating fines for his own use. Once again the settlers motives for their actions are far more closely related to their own economic interests and desire

to avoid taxes than by any religious or political convictions.

Claibourne, infuriated over events surrounding his Kent Island trading post and the loss of his ships, again appealed to the king. In his brief to the crown he provides a terse timeline of events beginning with the king's commission licensing him to trade and ending with accusations of Lord Baltimore's interference with his trade and the near starvation of his men at Kent Island. His arguments against Lord Baltimore rested primarily on the fact that his commission to trade specifically stated that he could trade in any area not previously "cultivated nor planted" such as Kent Island which had not been cultivated by any white man upon his arrival.

Claibourne and Lord Baltimore called a temporary truce to await London's judgement. For his part, King Charles I was upset at the Virginians for overthrowing the royal governor, Harvey, and therefore summoned Lord Baltimore's most vocal enemies back to England to answer for their actions. Claibourne, despite growing friction between himself and his stockholders in London (Cloberry's), chose to remain on Kent Island until he was summoned to London by his partners at Cloberry's to answer to them regarding events in Maryland and Virginia. Claibourne decided that it was best to present his own case to both the stock company and the king. During his absence at Kent Island, a new partner to the stock company was sent out from London to manage affairs at Kent Island. The new partner, George Evelin, initially supported Cloberry and Claibourne's position, but was quickly won over by Lord Baltimore and his claims. He proceeded to declare himself agents for both Cloberry's and Lord Baltimore for the purpose of trading with the Indians. In the dispute between Claibourne and Lord Baltimore, Evelin soon moved ever more into Lord Baltimore's camp despite the opposition of Claibourne's men on Kent Island who remained loyal to Claibourne.

In England, the King's commission found in favor of Lord Baltimore, reaffirmed his patent, including Kent Island, and affirmed Lord Baltimore's sole right to issue commissions to trade and thereby pushed Claibourne and his trading interests completely out of Maryland. Claibourne could continue to occupy his home on Kent Island. But he could not regain his confiscated boats, and he was still charged with piracy in the Maryland assembly over the *Cockatrice* affair due to the loss of life during that battle. He was eventually found innocent in the High Court of Admiralty but would continue to challenge Lord Baltimore again in the future.

Claibourne, while seemingly acting on behalf of Virginia, was interested in winning territory that happened to be under his personal claim. Further, this claim that he tried to make on behalf of Virginia, would benefit his personal business interests far more than Virginia's. Moreover, as long as Claibourne's interests were profitable, he had the backing of his London stockholders. No sooner did his stockholders get wind of impending problems with Maryland authorities than they turned their own interests to support Lord Baltimore's. While Claibourne may have represented the first of the Maryland-Virginia boundary disputes, he was certainly not the last.

As mentioned above, religious and political differences in Britain were mirrored in the Colonies. These differences intensify in the 1640s and 1650s with the approaching English Civil War. In part, Philip Calvert's (the third Lord of Baltimore) motivation for passing an Act Concerning Religion in this period is to preserve his Proprietary rule during the religious and political upheavals of this time. Protestant reformers and Puritans arrived in large numbers during these years and Lord Baltimore's exclusive, Catholic, rule of Maryland was seen as a threat to Cromwell's Protestant supporters. In an effort to keep the peace, Lord Baltimore at one point even appointed a Protestant governor and welcomes Protestant and Puritan settlers but only as long as the Puritan's were in power in England. He would take other actions in the name of religious toleration that cannot be attributed solely to his generosity of spirit or even his politics.

In the middle of the 17th century, Quakers settling in Northampton County, VA, pursued typical Quaker practices: refusing to remove their hats in court, failing to take oaths and, most egregious of all, refusing to pay tithes to the Anglican Church. These actions were perceived not just as religious expressions, but moreso as political failures to recognize the legitimate government. To combat this, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a bill for the suppression of Quakers in 1662.

Seeing an opportunity to expand the population of Maryland's Eastern Shore, and thereby strengthening claims to that territory, Lord Baltimore responded favorably to a petition from these Quakers for assistance. In so doing, he formed a commission of three officers: Colonel Edmund Scarburgh, Randall Revel and John Elzey. This group was authorized to patent land for anyone (of any faith) who wished to settle in territory claimed by Maryland on its Eastern Shore. Virginia Quaker settlers promptly responded by moving up the shore to settle around Annemessex and Manokin. Virginia authorities, displeased with these developments, quickly adopted two additional laws: one forbidding Quakers from assembly and the other marking the boundary between Maryland and Virginia at Watkins Point. To enforce this, the Virginia House of Burgesses commissioned the very same Colonel Scarburgh, then also surveyor general to Virginia, to compel the Quakers to pay their taxes and tithes to Virginia. In 1663, Scarburgh, on his own authority, marched into Annemessex and Manokin with 40 soldiers to force the Quakers into submission to Virginia. At first, the Quakers welcomed him to protect them from restive Indians of the area. It soon became clear that Scarburgh had not come to protect them from Indians; rather that he had arrived to force them to bend to Virginia's will as interpreted by Scarburgh. In his report of his campaign against the settlers at Annemessex and Manokin, he declared that he "sett ye broad arrow on the doore" and had subsequently arrested several of the Quaker settlers. He suggested whippings for some and threatened to "take one for ye other as securities for their appearance" or take hostages.

Clearly, Scarburgh did not think highly of the individuals at Annamessex and Manokin. In his official report, he referred to one as "filled with a spirit of nonsence." With regard to another he doubted a request for "Liberty to trade" as "some plott of ye Quakers." Regarding Stephen Horsey, a former Virginia Burgess, Scarburgh characterized him as an "Ignorant yet insolent officer, ... thrown out by ye Assembly for a factious and tumultuous person, A man Repugnant to all Government ..." Of George Johnson he stated "ye proteus of heresy... .notorious for shifting scismatticall pranks." He further accused Johnson of being a drunkard, father of bastard mulatto children and, worst of all, a Quaker.

From these accounts, it seems that Scarburgh only sought to enforce Virginia's religious and political will over local Quakers. Scarburgh, however, was more interested in his own designs on land that fell into disputed territory between Maryland and Virginia.

Earlier, in 1662, land hunger had been a major factor in the decision to split Accomack County from Northampton County. In the division of Accomack from Northampton County, it turned out that Scarburgh's land was bounded to the south by Occahanock Creek. His home was on the northern bank of that body of water. Therefore, in his own interest, the southern boundary of Accomack County was established at that point. This consolidated Scarburgh's holdings into Accomack County despite the fact that this left the original county of Northampton truncated by less than half its original area Scarburgh's subsequent aggressive actions to move Virginia's boundary northward into territory claimed by Maryland, represented an attempt to consolidate his own holdings inside Virginia. His main argument centered on the location of Watkins Point, the southern boundary mentioned in Maryland's Charter. Scarburgh claimed that Watkins Point was located at the mouth of the Wicomico River rather than the Pocomoke River. On this basis, and prior to the incident at Annamessex and Manokin, he tried to move the Maryland-Virginia boundary line 30 miles northward from the Watkins Point on the Pocomoke to a point on the mouth of the Wicomico.

To determine a solution to the matter, Maryland's General Assembly, enlisted the assistance of Virginia's Governor William Berkley and the Virginia House of Burgesses. The House of Burgesses on September 10, 1663, enacted a bill setting up a commission to determine the boundaries of Maryland and Virginia on the Eastern Shore. The act provides for the establishment of a committee made up of Marylanders and Virginians to settle the dispute. Scarburgh used his appointment to march into Annamessex and Manokin to subjugate the Quaker inhabitants in the name of the Virginia government without first delimiting the boundaries. Even to the Virginian's, Scarburgh had exceeded his authority.

Ultimately, this episode ended with the establishment of Watkins Point, Maryland's southern boundary on the Eastern Shore, at the mouth of the Pocomoke. Scarburgh, in the end, got his land from Lord Baltimore though it took him several more years to do so. On June 25, 1668, Lord Baltimore finally granted to Scarborough 400 acres straddling the boundary. In the same deed, however, Lord Baltimore wrote of another plot of adjacent land deeded to Thomas Davis, the original patentee of the land from whom Scarburgh had initially purchased a part. Lord Baltimore wrote, "that said parcell of land lying in Somerset County on the South side of the Potomac River" [emphasis added] and remaining upon record in our said province of Maryland ..." In fact, the surveying of the Watkins Point-Atlantic line resulted in later disputes on the Potomac which would surface more than a century later.

Virginia's battles with Maryland over the exact boundaries on the Eastern Shore neither began nor ended with Scarburgh's activities. These disputes arose from political, religious and economic factors relative to land and tax revenues. Scarburgh, while not a trader like Claibourne, was perhaps one of the Eastern Shore's largest landholders with patents totaling some 46,550 acres in Northampton and Accomack counties in Virginia, and others in Maryland. Historian Susie Ames compares Scarburgh to his counterparts "in land speculators of the eighteenth century, in railroad magnates of the nineteenth century and in war profiteers of the twentieth. True to form, disputing and establishing Maryland's boundary met Colonel Scarburgh's needs for consolidating his wealth."

Some evidence of religious prejudice and differences between the two colonies is evident in the aforementioned episode of Scarburgh and the Virginians treatment of the Quakers. Contrary to what one might expect, however, Maryland, despite its Religious Toleration Act, treated the Quakers no better than the Virginians. A Quaker letter published in London found the Indians kinder and more merciful than Marylanders "which is a shame to the mad, rash rulers of Mariland who have acted so barbarously to our people."

Lord Baltimore, Claibourne and Scarburgh's actions were not motivated by their religious convictions nor by their political beliefs. They were fueled by their personal aggrandizement—namely, an increase in their personal wealth and power, however deeply cloaked in religiosity, service to the colony or loyalty to the crown.

With profits came loyalty. The early disputes over Maryland and Virginia boundaries determined the property holdings, profits and further settlement in the two colonies. Maryland and Virginia government leaders were battling for new settlers whose success meant even more colonists and the support of the British monarch. More colonists in turn meant higher quit-rents and tax revenues for the powers in office. Lord Baltimore knew this better than most. According to Gene Williams in his book *Chesapeake Conflict, The Troublesome Early Days of Maryland*, Baltimore's Maryland colony was "... first a profit center and then a refuge for maltreated Catholics and disgruntled Protestants." This is an especially apt description of the Calvert Family Palatinate.

Other conflicts were to arise at later dates. The boundary line of the Potomac on the Western Shore of Maryland and Virginia was to come under dispute in 1877. The conflict had its roots in the line drawn by Scarburgh on the Eastern Shore. As it turned out, the surveyors of Scarburgh's time had not accounted for magnetic variation when surveying their boundary line. As a result, the Watkins Point-Atlantic line was not a true one. This line formed the basis for the Maryland-Virginia boundary across the bay on the Potomac. Since the Atlantic-Watkins Point line was not in a true one, the line drawn across the bay and to the Potomac was also out of line. This would result in the Potomac boundary line coming under dispute as to where the boundary fell at the low water mark. This in turn brought under dispute the jurisdiction of islands in the Potomac.

In 1889, the subject of the lower Potomac islands was to cause more serious problems between Maryland and Virginia. Known colloquially as "The Oyster War," hostilities were to break out on the Chesapeake when Maryland's Governor Jackson proclaimed the Hog's Island oyster flats to be on the Maryland side of the boundary and open to dredging by both Marylanders and Virginians. In one of the "Oyster War" battles, Marylanders found dredging this flat were promptly sunk by a tug hired to protect the flats by a Virginian, Charles R. Lewis, who actually claimed the exclusive lease to the flats. Lewis had invested in the lease, the seeding of the oyster flats and planned to employ many Virginia watermen in the oyster dredging of the flats under his claim. Once again, at issue was not politics, nor religion, but economics. The conflict appeared solved by a joint commission from Maryland and Virginia.

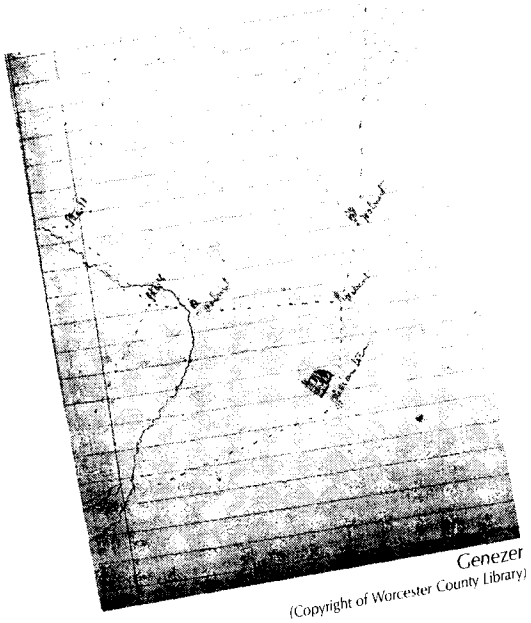
It was not to be. More problems would surface in 1955 when Maryland demanded an export tax from Virginia's watermen. Hostilities erupted again in 1958 over the placement of floating casinos in the Potomac. As in Colonial times, both 20th century disputes are based on revenues.

Even today, Marylanders and Virginians battle over fishing rights

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

William D. Pitts Collection

By Faye E. Brooks



Genezer
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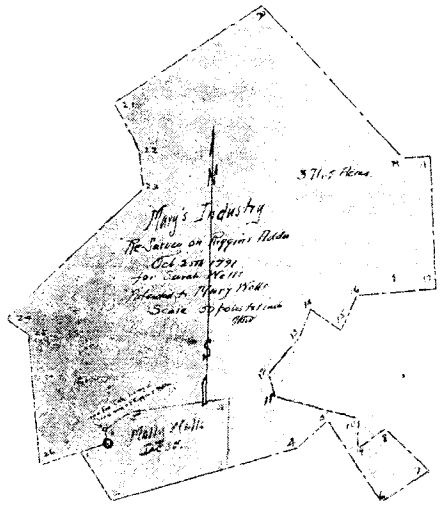

Mary's Industry
(Copyright of Worcester County Library)

The Guide to the William D. Pitts Collection tells the user all he or she needs to know about the collection. It holds 70 cubic feet of nearly 20,000 items of Worcester County land survey records, dating from 1677 to 1982, created and collected by William Dixon Pitts during his 60-year career as a county and private surveyor.

Pitts, born in Baltimore in 1889, moved to Berlin, MD, in 1898 with his family where his father William J. Pitts was later elected Worcester County surveyor. By 1922, the elder Pitts retired and William D. Pitts succeeded his father, subsequently establishing his own survey career.

William D. Pitts, with the land to hold the office abolished in 1978, saved all his own records as well as those of earlier surveyors and his father William J. Pitts. Daniel C. Hudson, 1832-1905, a Berlin school teacher and surveyor, produced material highly regarded by Pitts who finally accepted the papers from Hudson's sister-in-law Jenny Bowen who had grown weary of Pitts' frequent requests for information. Among the "piecemeal" acquisitions are records of Powell Pattey (1795-1859), William Shockley (1860-1925), William U. Schoolfield (1901-1926) and George B. Cropper (1938-1969).

Included in the collection are a handful of copies taken from deeds recorded before 1700. Notes regarding *Burley* are patented to William Tomkins on July 12, 1677, include "beginning at mkd hickory" to "mkd white oak on westernmost side of savannah" to "mkd hickory standing on a hill thence with sight line to first bounder." The January 17, 1685, patent of *Sandowne* in District 4 to William Brenn recorded A-261 was hand copied by clerk John Gallagher. Another "true copy" of a deed is that of Hannah and John Horsey's *Carthen's Content* dated May 13, 1685, and described as adjoining *Hanahs Delight*. Also to be found in other folders are the courses of Robert Avery's *Unpleasant* patented May 30, 1687, a copy by James S. Shepherd, commissioner of Land Office, of the June 1, 1687, patent survey of *Conveniency* patented for William Round in District 5 and John Deele's patent of *Oak Hall* in District 9 dated May 12, 1688.

The researcher will find a series of folders titled "Furnace Co." which offer deed notes, extracts of deeds and the title search for *Riggin's Addition*, notes on *Mary's Industry* and original tract plats for *Ebenezer's Luck* dated November 13, 1800. Folder 3429 holds the final copy of the chain of title to Furnace Company holdings known as *Riggins Addition* and *Addition to Morris Mill Supply*.

As interesting as the contents of the folders are the scraps of paper ... backs of lined school paper ... the 1919 Democratic Ticket announcing William J. Pitts as the candidate for county surveyor ... used to record information.

Two months after Pitts' death in 1983 his daughter Margaret Calhoun who had married Harry Calhoun, great-grandson of Powell Pattey, donated the collection to the Worcester County Library in Snow Hill, MD. The collection, examined in 1984 by Bonfield Archival Consultants, has been called a national treasure. It was conserved and indexed in 1986 by archivist J. Todd Ellison, compiler of *The Guild to the William D. Pitts Collection*, who stated, "To a remarkable degree, the Pitts Collection is a cohesive whole." The William D. Pitts Collection became public accessible a year later and is housed in the Pitts Room of the Snow Hill branch.

The collection includes William D. Pitts' personal diaries, reference books and maps, field books, notebooks, property descriptions, plats ranging from rough sketches of property lines to copies of official drawings filed in the Worcester County courthouse, correspondence, deeds and survey files. Pitts' papers have often served as legal evidence in land disputes.

For easy access to the records, *The Guide to the William D. Pitts Collection* is categorized by accession number, folder title (name of tract or owner), surveyor, election district, locality (town or tract) and date.

Lisa Outten Harrison, coordinator of Community Services of Worcester County Library, added, "The value of this rare and historic collection was realized by Pitts' longtime friends James Dryden of Newark, MD. In 2002, Dryden donated funds to the library to preserve the original documents and to make the collection more readily available for researchers and historians alike. The process was a challenging one with the majority of images written on parchment or onionskin paper. In April 2005, the Worcester County Library held a reception and released the William D. Pitts Collection in digitized format. The collection is now available at all five branches of Worcester County Library for public use."

Faye Brooks is a volunteer in the Worcester Room of the Snow Hill branch of the Worcester County Public Library.

Worcester County Library
307 North Washington Street
Snow Hill, MD 21863
www.worc.lib.md.us/library/home.html
Hours
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Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Miles Collection

For the past 24 years, the Salisbury University Foundation, Inc. and the Nabb Research Center have been the custodians of survey documents prepared by three generations of the Miles Family, namely William F.W., Samuel F. and W. Ballard Miles. These documents consist mainly of plats and descriptions of parcels of land in Somerset County, but it also include land in Wicomico and Worcester counties.

The time span covered by these surveys is roughly from the mid-1800s to 1970; however, research notes in many of these files track earlier surveys back to before the Revolutionary War.

Many surveys over the timespan referenced were never recorded in the appropriate court house. This was often because of negligence on the part of the land owner who did not want to pay the fee for recordation of the plat. As a result, if the owner lost his own copy of the survey documents, the only remaining copy was in the surveyors files. Over the years, many surveyors and attorneys, finding nothing in county files to identify certain tracts of land, have resorted to using surveyors files.

This practice continues to this day, and Nabb Research Center staff have assisted in identifying appropriate documents. An interesting aspect of surveying on the Eastern Shore of Maryland is that vast tracts of marshlands were never in private ownership, probably because they were worthless as farmlands. When, for whatever reason, various individuals wanted to acquire such lands, the state of Maryland required that a survey be accomplished and a "patent" be issued to the new owner, at practically no cost to him. However, in the 1950s and 1960s, when it was realized how important these lands were to the total environment, the state reacquired many of them.

As an example, of the aforegoing, a large part of Maryland's Assateague Island was platted into lots just before the state and federal governments stopped all private development of the island.

A problem with surveying techniques in the past has been to permanently document on descriptions, plats and in the field the actual outline of the tracts. Compass bearings were often inaccurate, and measurements (in chains or rods) were subject to ground conditions such as woods or marsh. Blazed trees, rocks, wooden stakes, most of which have long since disappeared, were described and shown in descriptions on plats as property corners.

A fourth generation of family surveyors and a retired civil engineer, William B. Miles Jr. is currently assisting the Nabb Research Center in identifying, repairing and rehousing these documents. They should continue to be a valuable resource for surveyors, attorneys and historians for many years to come.

Editor's Note
William F. W. Miles (1820-1883), Samuel F. Miles (1865-1945) and W. Ballard Miles (1896-1984)

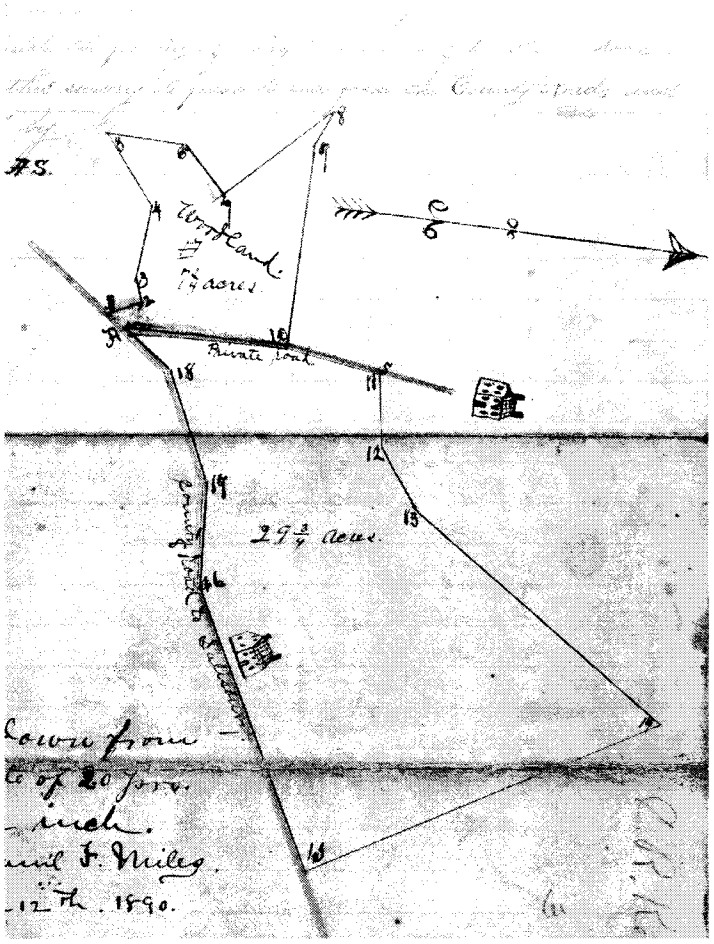


Image shows a plat illustrating part of *Dorman's Conclusion*, originally patented for 276 acres in 1769 by Michael Dorman.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Politics, Religion and Money in the Maryland-Virginia Boundary Dispute

in the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. Present day disputes generally revolve around agricultural, environmental or natural resource concerns. These issues all have a profound impact on economic affairs of the states in question. In comparing present day conflicts between the two states and the effects on their economies, with those of the Colonial era, one finds that economics have always been a driving force in the Maryland-Virginia boundary disputes. Today, as then, higher moral purpose and political ideology are often used to mask base motivations. Then, as now, pursuit of commerce, profit and power best explain the underlying cause of the boundary disputes between Maryland and Virginia.

Doris Gelbman is a 2002 Salisbury University graduate now a practicing attorney in Boston.

Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries

How Maryland's Counties Came To Be ...

Compiled by James Edward Jensen

1637 **Saint Mary's County** is created, although the *Ark* and the *Dove* passengers first landed at Saint Clements Island March 25, 1634.

1642 **Kent County** is formed.

1650 **Anne Arundel County** is created, as is Old Charles County (west side of the Patuxent River).

1654 Old Charles County is abolished when **Calvert County** is created.

1654-1657 The Puritan Revolution results in name changes for the existing Western Shore counties which are named Providence (was Ann Arundel), Patuxent (was Calvert) and Potomac (was Saint Mary's).

1658 **Charles County** is established.

1659 **Baltimore County** is created (the exact date is unknown) and the old names return.

1662 **Talbot County** is formed (the exact date is unknown).

1666 **Somerset County** is created.

1668 **Dorchester County** is formed (the exact date is unknown).

1669 **Old Worcester** (seaboard side) and **Durham counties** (coastal Delaware Bay) are created.

1671 The border between Talbot and Kent counties is changed.

1672 Old Worcester County now takes up both the seaboard side and coastal Delaware.

1674 **Cecil County** is created out of Baltimore County.*

1684 The border between Dorchester and Somerset counties is altered and Somerset no longer lays claim to lands north of the Nanticoke and south of the Marshyhope rivers.

1685 The land where Delaware now lies is granted to William Penn.

1695 **Prince George's County** is formed out of Calvert and Charles counties, and the border between Kent and Talbot counties is defined.

1698 The border between Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties is defined.

1706 The counties of the Eastern Shore are given defined boundaries and **Queen Anne's County** is created.

1726 Anne Arundel County now extends to the Patapsco River.

1739-1740 Maryland's northern boundary is established.

1742 **Worcester County** is created out of Somerset County.

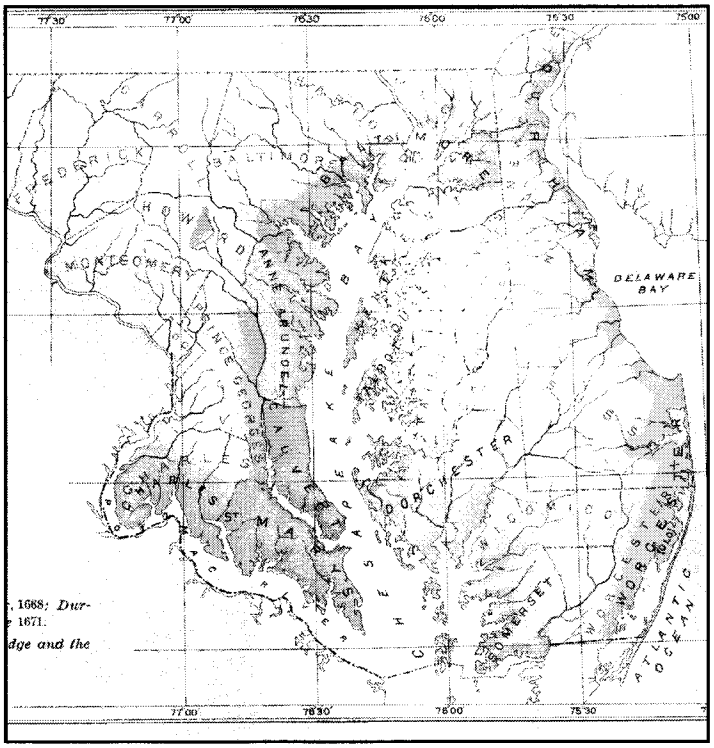
1748 **Frederick County** is formed and the border between Charles and Prince George's counties is changed.

1750-1766 The Delaware boundary is established.

1769 The team of Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, both from England and commissioned by the Penn and Calvert families, define the borders between Delaware, Maryland and Pennsylvania.

1773 **Caroline and Harford counties** are created out of Dorchester and Queen Anne's and the latter out of Baltimore, respectively.

1776 As a result of the Constitutional Convention, Frederick County is split to form **Montgomery and Washington counties**.



1789 **Allegany County** is created out of Washington County.

1791 The **District of Columbia** ceded to the nation.

1836 **Carroll County** is formed out of Baltimore and Frederick counties.

1838 Howard district is formed in Anne Arundel County.

1849-50 Maryland's northeastern and western borders are resurveyed.

1850 **Howard** is made a county and **Baltimore City** separates from Baltimore County via the 1850 Constitutional Convention.

1867 **Wicomico County** is created by Constitutional Convention and is formed out of Somerset and Worcester counties.

1872 **Garrett County** is formed out of Allegany.

1874 Maryland's southern boundary is settled, and the Chesapeake Bay is split between Maryland and Virginia.

1880 The border between Caroline and Dorchester counties is altered.

1902 Maryland's northern boundary (part of the Mason-Dixon Line) is resurveyed.

*The Maryland Manual states that Cecil was carved out of both Baltimore and Kent counties, but there is no evidence that Kent County ever claimed any lands north of the Sassafras River; therefore, with select land tracts from Baltimore County being found on the south side of the said river, Cecil County could only have been formed out of Baltimore County.

James E. Jensen is the Nabb Center Reading Room coordinator and a candidate for an M.A. in history from Salisbury University.

Maryland-Virginia Boundary Becomes a Hobby

By Philip Goldsborough and Jean Merson

In pursuing his hobbies as an amateur genealogist and cartographer, Phil Goldsborough of Crisfield found himself wondering more and more about the irregular boundary of the Maryland-Virginia line, particularly the section of the line that travels east across the open water of the Chesapeake Bay.

While the crooked western boundary of the state is easily explained by the meanderings of the Potomac River, the Maryland-Pennsylvania boundary follows a straight east-west line just south of the 40th parallel.

The Delaware-Maryland line is gun-barrel straight, as well even when it turns abruptly east near Mardela Springs and heads to the ocean.

Why, Phil wondered, did the segment connecting Smith Point and our area look like a dog's hind leg?

Many of his answers came one day from a book discovered at a yard sale by Louise and Howard Atkins of Salisbury.

The book, which Phil later found in the State Archives, was the *Report and Journal of Proceedings of the Joint Commission to Adjust the Boundary Line of the States of Maryland and Virginia*, published in 1874.

Ironically, in this book Phil found verbatim testimony of many of his own ancestors regarding the location of the boundary.

The dispute began in 1632, when Charles I carved off a huge portion of what was then Virginia and gave it to the Second Lord Baltimore, Cecil Calvert:

> (We) do Give, Grant, and Confirm, unto aforesaid Caecillus, now Baron of Baltimore, his Heirs, and Assigns, all that part of the Peninsula, or Cherosonese, lying in the Parts of America, between the Ocean on the East, and the Bay of Chesapeake on the West ...

By 1668, Edmund Scarborough and Philip Calvert, brother of Cecil, met near what is now Crisfield to decide the southern boundary of the Eastern Shore of the new colony.

Beginning at the Indian village of Chinquack, just south of Smith Point on the Western Shore, the line would run east to "... the western-most angle of ... Watkins Point and from there along an East line to seabord."

One problem with this line, known later as the "Charter Line," was that Edmund Scarborough, the representative of Virginia's interests, had some knowledge of surveying techniques, while Philip Calvert had little to recommend him for the job of boundary arbitrator, except the Calvert family name. Scarborough apparently tricked Calvert into agreeing to a line following magnetic rather than true east, swinging the Maryland/Virginia line just south of the present-day Cedar Hall landing in a magnetic declination at the time of the survey, six degrees to the north of east. This part of the line, still evident today, gave Virginia 15,000 acres more land, including what is now New Church, which would have been in Maryland had they followed true east rather than magnetic east.

Another major problem that Phil discovered with the Charter Line was the location of Watkins Point, shown on Smith's map, and probably named for James Watkins, a soldier in Smith's party. Watkins Point was originally described as all of the land between the Annemessex River and the Pocomoke Sound. The western-most point of this piece of land would have been Old Island, or the location of the James Island Light today. Smith, himself, reported that he found fresh water at this place, which was also called "Ployer's Point." There is also a record of fruit trees and a garden in the backyard of one of Benjamin Thomas who owned land on Old Island. In the 1800s, when the Nelson family of Crisfield recorded births on Old Island, they reportedly grew large vegetables in the rich soil. According to Boundary Testimony, there was an earthen fort there in early times guarding the way to the lowlands that later became known as Crisfield, which was then called Annemessex Neck.

According to Phil, a line connecting the Watkins Point on Old Island with the other markers placed by Calvert and Scarborough would have run directly past the southwest group of pilings at the present depot, through the Somer's Cove Marina parking lot, just north of the Tawes House, that now belongs to Mayor Donnie Gerald, past the door of the H. DeWayne Whittington Elementary School, down Freedom Town Road, just south of Dead Man's Corner, east across Marumsco Marsh, to a point just north of Shelltown. In addition, the southern part of Tylerton, Smith Island, would have fallen in Virginia.

Oyster Wars Bring End to Line Dispute

For some 100 years, nobody seemed to care where the line ran in our area. The sheriff of Accomack County didn't particularly want to travel to Annemessex Neck or Tylerton to settle disputes or collect taxes, and no one wanted to drag a surveyor's chain over the Marumsco Swamp. People patented land and paid taxes, for the most part, on the Calvert rent rolls. For all intents and purposes, they were Marylanders.

Phil has copies of several of the main land patents, including *Johnson's Lot*, patented in 1663, by John Johnson, ancestor of many of the residents in our area. This land ran from where the Asbury Church is to where Jenkins Creek Bridge is today, east to the Pocomoke Sound and up Johnson's Creek (named for John Johnson) to a tract of land called *Makepeace* (patent 1663) then west/southwest to the beginning.

Emessex, 300 acres patented in February 1663, to Benjamin Summers, covered the area which started near Jenkins Creek Bridge and then runs north behind where Margaret Lawson's house is near the Arch Bridge, following Widdy's Ditch to Fourth Street, then up to the Small Boat Harbor, over to where the Seafood Lab is, then east over to Slugger Hinman's house and down Somerset Avenue.

The rest of what is downtown Crisfield was really a worthless piece of marsh patented under the name *Honesty*. According to records kept by William Stevens, Keeper of the Seal of Maryland in these parts, all of the above landowners paid taxes to the Calverts at St. Mary's.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 20

Rustic Tales at Water's Edge

By Iris Powell

Rustic Tales at Water's Edge was held at the West Ocean City home of Mrs. John Dale Showell III on the evening of June 3, 2006. A gentle misty rain did not dampen the spirits of over 200 guests who attended the annual fund-raising event that benefits the mission of the Nabb Research Center to collect and preserve the history and culture of the Delmarva Peninsula. Nabb advisory board member Sarah Showell co-hosted the evening with her mother Mrs. Showell, who graciously donated her lovely bayside home for the occasion.

Water's Edge is situated at the end of an inviting shaded lane in West Ocean City. The home overlooks the Isle of Wight Bay with vistas of Ocean City sparkling by day and twinkling by night. At the time of purchase in 1948 by John Dale and Ann Lockhart Showell, the property—originally part of a land tract called "Carmel" dating back to 1679—and the main house were still being maintained by Mrs. Katie Dirickson for the owners and guests as a hunting lodge of sorts. The house was always prepared with food and drink for guests who would spend their days hunting and their nights in front of the fireplace telling "rustic tall tales."

This tradition of good company was carried on in fine style for the Rustic Tales at Water's Edge evening as Nabb board members, SU faculty, Delegates D. Page Elmore and Jim Mathias, Eastern Shore community members and friends of the Nabb Research Center enjoyed food and drink provided by generous sponsors. In addition to the company and good conversation, a panel display researched by Nabb advisory board member Pat Taylor traced the history of the Showell family on the Eastern Shore demonstrating to the guests the primary research capability of the Research Center. Silent and live auction brought in over $5,000.

As the gentle rain subsided, many party goers moved out onto the large lawn overlooking the bay to take advantage of the lovely tent, chairs and flowers. This was the perfect spot to enjoy mint juleps provided again this year by Nabb board member Bert Thornton and his wife Emma.

This event raised over $25,000 to benefit the Nabb Research Center. Such support is vital to the Center's ability to continue collecting and preserving the history of Delmarva. The Nabb Research Center board and staff are grateful to all who helped make the event a great success. We are most grateful to the very generous participation of Sarah Showell, Mrs. John Dale Showell III and all the Showell family members who donated such resources and energy to the cause of preserving Eastern Shore history.

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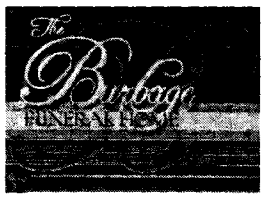

Berlin, MD

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Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Maryland-Virginia Boundary Becomes a Hobby

On Smith Island, Captain Henry Smith (the island's namesake) patented *Pitchroft* in 1667; 1,000 acres of *Pitchcroft* were patented in Virginia; 1,000 acres in Maryland; thus recognizing the line went through Smith Island at that time. Subsequent land transactions on Smith Island place the southern part of what is now Tylerton in Virginia, and the rest in Maryland.

The single event that made the exact location of the Maryland/Virginia line a crucial fact was the rise of the oyster trade. Because of the demand, a need arose for a seaport adjacent to a railway, where the oysters could be shipped to all parts of the world. Although Crisfield had all of the geographical qualifications, the last stable land on what is now Route 413 was then at Ward's Crossing. The idea of early developers, such as John Crisfield, was to extend the railroad on trestles to where it would be in deep enough water to service steamboats. Thinking that the tracks would extend eventually to what was Old Island (Watkins Point), developers, including Hans Lawson and Michael Somers, who patented 69 and 1/3 acres of the tract known as *Honesty*, on June 30, 1858, bought up Old Island Marsh.

During this same time period, prior to the Civil War, the federal government began to conduct coastal and geodetic survey of its territorial waters. A Lieutenant Michler was sent to our area in 1858 to survey the Maryland/Virginia line. His findings are referred to as the Michler Line. Where Calvert and Scarborough's old markers east of the Pocomoke River, he used these markers to project a line west that went just past the Depot in Crisfield, where the railroad would later end, then through Janes Island. When he got to what was actually Watkins Point on Old Island, he sited across to a gum tree in Butler Tyler's yard. This tree is mentioned in later boundary testimony and was apparently so big that it could be seen from both Watkins and Smith points. It should be noted that it would have been difficult to see this tree from the point that is now called Cedar Straights.

From the gum tree, Michler marked the line through Sassafras Hammock at Hogs Neck and near the home site of John Park, over to Smith Point on the Western Shore, thus, explaining the "dog leg" in the line.

Phil is convinced that the early founders of Crisfield knew where the Calvert/Scarborough line and Michler Line ran, because both lines incorporate the exact point where the railroad tracks were stopped in 1866, avoiding possible interstate trade complications. "I found it right at the line," he commented.

Meanwhile, the county's taste for oysters became insatiable. The waters of the Pocomoke and Tangier Sound were flooded with not only Virginia and Maryland watermen, but also drudgers from the upper East Coast who had depleted New England and New York oyster supplies. The Oyster Wars had begun, and the boundary had become very important; important enough to kill for, as many watermen from both states found out.

Because the Oyster Wars continued, with citizens and even law enforcement agencies disregarding 11 previous lines, the state governments stepped in once again in 1872. The Joint Commission to Adjust the Boundary Line of the State of Maryland and Virginia met at the Cove and Barnums Hotel in Crisfield, taking boundary testimony that was then published by the legislature in 1874. This is the testimony that turned up in the book that Mr. and Mrs. Atkins later found at a yard sale, and Phil located in the State Archives in 1992.

In 1877, the government sent two impartial arbitrators to decide the line for one final time. J.S. Black of Pennsylvania and Charles J. Jenkins of Georgia arrived in our area for the final award arbitration. All previous work on the boundary was assembled, even information found in the British Archives.

Unfortunately, both the British and American copies of some British documents that would have been favorable to Virginia were found vandalized, missing or destroyed on both sides of the Atlantic. In a letter dated December 31, 1870, from former Governor of Virginia Henry Wise to the then current Governor Gilbert C. Walker, the nine volumes of information regarding the boundary compiled by A.J. McDonald were tampered with in an extremely suspicious manner: "Six out of the nine volumes have been taken away, and the three remaining volumes–the second, sixth and seventh–have been so mutilated, that they are now wholly deficient in the very materials which they were meant to supply."

Wise further comments, regarding the "felonious intent of interested parties," that "... the motive is too apparent for the act to be mistaken, and it is so effectual to prevent or obstruct a correct investigation of the boundary on the Eastern Shore involving not only the oyster fisheries of the Tangier Sound, but the terminus of the railroad in Crisfield."

Using what information they had, the arbitrators finally projected a true line east from Sassafras Hammock, which had never been a point of contention. They crossed the island to the center of Tangier Sound, dividing those waters equally between both states. They then dropped south to a point that would have intersected a true line east Smith Point. They then drew the line east to the center of the Pocomoke Sound, which they also divided in half. Then they drew a line to the center of the Pocomoke River, dividing that body of water equally between Maryland and Virginia, arriving finally at the Calvert-Scarborough marker north of Shelltown and south of Cedar Hall Landing. The line then travels to the ocean along the Charter Line.

After nearly a decade of research, Phil finally understood why the southern border of Maryland is so crooked. "From a historical viewpoint, it is interesting to note that the line would have gone, and did go, through Tylerton and Crisfield, and that 'Down Neck' would have been in Virginia. Now the oysters are gone, and it's back to where it really doesn't matter that much."

Jean Merson is a 2002 Salisbury University graduate living in Crisfield, MD. Philip Goldsborough is a locally well-known amateur historian who resides in Crisfield.

Editor's Notes

The text was originally printed in two parts in the *Somerset Herald*. Permission to reprint was given by Jean Merson, SU alumna, and Phil Goldsborough, long-time Nabb Center supporter. "Our Area" refers to lower Somerset County, specifically in and around Crisfield.

The Verdict

By Evelyn Robinson

"Lady Justice is blind but the scales of justice will balance."

My grandfather was a great story-teller. Before the days of radio and TV, he entertained the family old and young. As a child, I listened, as his stories flashed pictures before my eyes. My favorite story is this one.

A lean-faced man pushes back an old grey felt hat as he straddles an old wooden kitchen chair. Here's the story—Moses Edward Pritchett was my great-grandfather. Handsome, well liked, intelligent, he was considered a leader in his community. Flowing white hair and white whiskers, he was almost a biblical Moses leading his people. His people shortened the Moses Edward to Mose-Ed.

Law and politics were his favorite subjects. Eventually he would be known as the Marsh Lawyer. So he sought and gained the friendship of the greatest lawyer in the county and very well-known all over the state, the late great Governor Emerson Harrington.

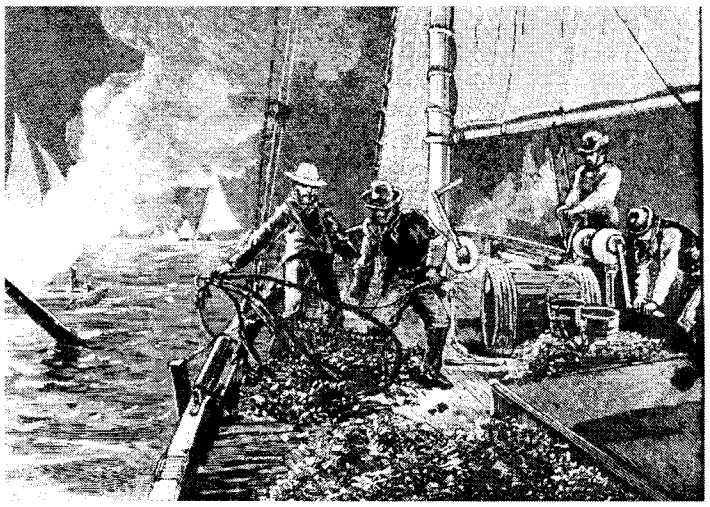
Mose-Ed would walk a herd of cattle to Cambridge, the county seat and for a week he would spend the time in court or in the office of Governor Harrington. Politics and law would be the conversation. Mose-Ed, being a waterman was interested in any law concerning the watermen. At that time there was much activity—oyster wars within and with Virginia. Laws were being enforced by water police. At that time, just as each county had its land boundaries so did it have water boundaries. Each county guarded its lines jealously. Woe to the man who slipped over or above the line into another waterman's county waters. Another hatred was the owners of leased bottom. On one of the trips to the Harrington office, Emerson informed Mose-Ed that according to the maps it appeared as though owners of leased bottom in the Nanticoke River had taken oyster bottom over the line into Dorchester County waters. This was a two-fold hatred, leased bottom over the line. Legally those oysters belonged to Dorchester watermen. Mose-Ed could hardly wait to return home. On arrival, he quickly assembled a force to sail, tong and reclaim the bottom.

The planned morning arrived. Mose-Ed's would be the lead boat. With my grandfather, Son Emerson in the family cunner (canoe), this armada set sail for the Nanticoke River. This would be no sneak attack. Mose-Ed planned to land on the oyster beds just at day-break. Mose-Ed and my grandfather quietly whispered to one another as they sailed out of Tegis (Tedious) Creek. In whispers they wondered of the day ahead. The handsome, dark-haired Emerson was bursting with excitement. Named for the great Emerson Harrington, loved by men and women, children and dogs, by Golly, Pa (Mose-Ed) would teach the Nanticoker to steal Dorchester oyster bottom. Especially a hated lease-owner. Under his breath he softly whistled "Won't you come home Bill Bailey. Won't you come home".

Still whistling, as the sun rose in the eastern sky, the boats touched the oyster beds. Then through the still between dawn and daylight, shots rang out. Quickly Mose-Ed and my grandfather raised their arms in surrender as did everyone else. Except one. Emerson sought cover and dropped to the bottom of the boat. For a moment they froze. The guns were still. Then my grandfather realized something was very wrong. Dropping to his knees, he raised his brother. As he cradled Emerson on his knee the life-blood poured out and saturated the white carpenter overalls he wore. Emerson had not found safety but instead found death. The song had been silenced by a bullet. Guards had been hired to protect the leased oyster beds. Sadly, the beaten and broken armada sailed for home. At Tegis Creek, arriving there much as a fallen warrior is placed on his shield they placed the dead waterman on the culling board. A fitting shield for a fallen waterman. On their shoulders over the old rutted dirt road they bore the slain warrior waterman home.

With charges of murder against the guards, the wealthy owners sought the best lawyer in the state. They hired none other than the famous Emerson Harrington. The trial would be in Dorchester County. Emerson Harrington did not seek a change in venue. Why would he? Here he would know every juror. He would know them mind, body and soul. Thus he would be in full control.

The trial dart finally arrived. Ill-fitting suits were taken out of moth balls. Some waterman proudly wore their work uniform or



overalls and lumber jacket. Crowds descended on the courthouse at Cambridge. The courthouse was packed, halls jammed and overflowed into the outside courtyard. Those inside raised windows and promised outsiders to keep them informed of the proceedings within.

Among the principals in the unfolding drama were the distinguished Emerson Harrington, with the clipped mustache and matching salt-and-pepper grey hair. Confidently, he strode in the crowded courtroom. Never would he play to a larger audience. The white-haired, handsome Mose-Ed walked slowly in as if unaware of the crowd. Eyes downcast, he seated himself. The trial began.

Emerson Harrington portrayed the guards as not killers but protectors of property. Protecting the black gold from thieves in the night. The excitement built. Masterfully, he planned the high point. Mose-Ed is called. Again slowly with eyes downcast he walked to the witness stand. With eyes still riveted on the floor he seats himself. Then two engaged in a duel. Former friends attack and defend. Sharp, sword-like questions ring out from the confident lawyer. Sadly but firmly a defending sword-like answer in rebuttal. The cutting questions by the lawyer seem to be losing ground to the soft, grief-weary answers from the bereaved father. Swiftly Emerson moved in for the one that must be the fatal charge.

"Mr. Pritchett," he asked in a voice dripping with sarcasm, "where did you acquire such an excellent knowledge of the law?"

For the first time the eyes were raised. The dueling mask was raised. The eyes mirrored the soul of a father who had lost a prize son, the namesake of the man standing before him. Hurt, betrayal, a soul now naked were the eyes of the father and waterman.

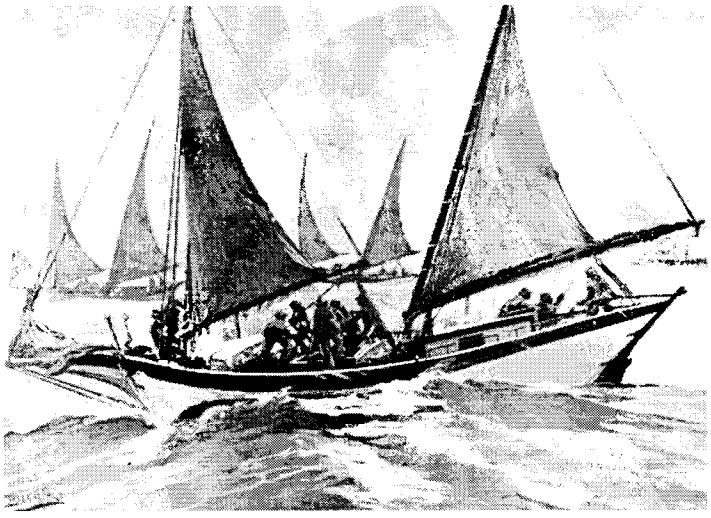
"Emerson," he said, firmly the words rang out across the courtroom. "Everything I know I know I learned from you."

For a moment Dorchester County stopped breathing. Bedlam broke out. Men shouting and pounding and stomping. Mose-Ed had just "bested" old Emerson. Now in today's TV shows the guards would have been found guilty. Not so. The argument that the guards had not intended to kill anyone, as Emerson sought safety, he found death brought to this place by his father.

The bitterness between the Pritchetts and Harringtons ceased with the passing of Mose-Ed and Emerson Harrington. Emerson Jr. would work on some legal problems for my grandfather and grandmother. Much like Mose-Ed, they too sought the best lawyer. Soon, I too found myself in the office of young Emerson. He was always young Emerson to them. In that office young Emerson told me stories of Mose-Ed and his father. Then one day, Mr. Harrington seemed to look beyond me lost in thought, he seemed to have gone to a place where I could not go.

"You know," he said, "I was always good to the waterman. Some paid. Some did not. I do not know if I even charged them. One day I entered politics, perhaps to be governor like my father. I don't know. I ran for State's Attorney. Your grandfather said he would support me as would the family. But I lost. As this grey-haired gentleman drew in on his old corn cob pipe I sensed a deep sadness, disappointment perhaps even betrayal. Then I told him the story of election day.

My grandfather was working on Poplar Island for Charles Brohawn. Mr. Charlie would have a boat bring the men from the island home to vote. They would land in Cambridge at lunchtime with ample time to vote. My grandparents lived in Cambridge at that time. As was the custom, many people returned home to vote. Home being to them the polls at Toddville. My mother drove our Model-T to Cambridge and would drive them back home to vote.



Lunchtime came, but there was no boat bringing the men to vote. Hours of uncertainty went by. Finally at 4 o'clock my grandmother said, we should start the 30-mile trip to the voting site. With three small children in the rear seat, two women in the front, the old Model-T was cranked to life. My grandmother felt two votes were better than none. About 12 miles down the road in the dark and gloomy Gum Swamp a tire blew. Nothing is as dark as a night in the Gum Swamp. Two women and three children must change a tire on a Model-T. This meant removing the flat tire from the rim on the wheel, putting another tire and inner tube back on the rim and then on the wheel. I well remember a series of jacks, tire tools and some sizzle words. Darkness of night was relieved by a not-too-bright flashlight and matches that quickly burned out. Time passed quickly, but the tire changing was very slow. Eventually the tire was replaced and the car was again cranked to life. Ten miles down the road, the moon came out, bright enough to pick up a pin. Arriving at the hall too late, the polls had closed 10 minutes earlier. Two women and three children had been on the road over three hours. The next day we learned that a severe thunderstorm had kept the boat from leaving Poplar Island. The men were stranded with no transportation to the mainland. According to Mr. Harrington, he lost the election by three votes.

After the death of his brother Emerson, my grandfather, a skilled waterman rarely ever worked on the water. No children or grandchildren of Mose-Ed were ever again waterman. After young Emerson, no Harrington was ever again on the old frosted door at the law office. Today, Ned Nabb is the nearest Harrington lawyer and Evelyn Robinson is the nearest Mose-Ed waterman. I, too, have sailed out of Tedious Creek. As I look up to the sky with its white fluffy clouds, I imagine a man with long white hair, flowing beard, the Marsh lawyer. Over there is a handsome man with clipped mustache and beautiful salt-pepper grey hair. There they stand before the greatest judge. Today there are no water boundaries, disease has managed to control leasing on the Bay. A blood stain on our dining room floor that neither bleaching nor sanding will release, blood from white carpenters overalls. A thunderstorm, a flat tire. Did Mose-Ed win the case in a courtroom somewhere beyond? Then I fancy on the wind I hear "Won't you come home Bill Bailey, won't you come home?," and I find myself humming.

Evelyn Robinson, from Toddville, occasionally writes for Dorchester newspapers and is interested in the local history of southern Dorchester County, MD.

Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries

The Measure of a Cemetery

By Jim Trader

The founders of this country wanted only the right to make their own decisions on matters in their personal lives, including establishing a family graveyard, usually on a farm in view of the home, on a high, well-drained site and sometimes with a fence enclosure to prevent damage by cattle or horses. Generally no specific area was planned initially but grew to accommodate family members with the expectation that future generations would tend to the burial site but which did not always take place resulting in many untended and overgrown cemeteries.

Photographs courtesy of James E. Jensen

Often deeds and wills had a provision noted as a covenant, a reservation or restriction of a burial site from the land conveyed and reserved to heirs with the right of ingress and egress to the site and most often the specific area was not defined by metes (a measure or assigned measure) or bounds (a reference to boundaries) and usually not checked by deed researchers who normally only search backward for a 50-year period.

William (Willin) McDaniel (born December 26, 1759) served in the Maryland Militia, Barren Creek Company, in the Revolutionary War and died December 26, 1847. A covenant in his will reserved an unidentified area of NEED acres as a public burying ground and not to be disturbed by any person. I found the burial site on an aerial photo, both before and after the gravestones were removed, stored in a barn for 40 years and relocated from the destroyed cemetery area to the Adkins Historical Complex in Mardela Springs.

Many old deeds used natural features as reference points—a lightwood or marked cedar post, a ditch or stream, a fence, a marked or specific tree, or neighbors names in the assumption that anyone forever would be able to identify the land areas from a meager description.

The burial site of Rev. John Huett, the first Anglican minister in Somerset County, between Green Hill Church Road and the Wicomico River, is clearly shown on an 1897 plat; however, this did not prevent destruction of the grave site by land clearing of structures used to manufacture and ship brick from the site. Church officials are not interested in a historic marker.

In a 1912 deed, a covenant reserved 0.34 acres in the Littleton P. Tilghman family cemetery, an undefined area of 14,810.4 square feet. Two later plats reduce the area arbitrarily to a site 50 feet by 71 feet with a 15-foot right-of-way, a deficit of 11,260.4 square feet, taking land not legally owned; however, informed descendants have decided not to take legal action.

The Handy Hayman cemetery on Union Church Road on land once owned by Nehemiah Fooks was divided in 1890 between his two daughters; however, the graveyard as enclosed was reserved by deed covenant to the two sisters as tenants in common with right access. The farm was later sold and the remains, without knowledge or approval of heirs whose rights were ignored, were removed and reinterred in Wicomico Memorial Park without required written approval of the State's Attorneys and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

The grave of Noah Jackson on a high sandy hill at Cedar Hill Park, whose broken gravestone had been removed, but whose burial site was clearly marked by a 4-inch square post at each corner, was destroyed in 2004 when the County Department of Parks and Recreation erected a children's playground over the grave site. I informed the State's Attorney who took no action.

The Methodist Episcopal Church had a cemetery on some 2 acres of land on Woodland Road fronting on Tony Tank Creek as shown on an 1897 plat and deed covenant reserving the graveyard. The property was later sold, illegally subdivided into lots and incorporated into the plat of *Hunting Park* subdivision. I presented a history of my deed research to the development company, the county health department, and planning and zoning officials documenting the exclusion of the reserved land area.

The graves of Elizabeth Parks and Samuel Williams at Onley Road, south of Bennett High School, were destroyed during installation of a septic tank system and the broken pieces of gravestone thrown into the woods on the hill at the lot rear. I found a small initialed piece I used as a paperweight and for legislative testimony example.

While surveyors are obligated to show known burial sites on plats they prepare, there are many known sites that are not shown such as the grave of Laura Drura, wife of Stephen Drura, located on Section 1, Block A, Lot 3, on the plat of *Passerdyke Village* subdivision in Allen, MD, whose grave is within about 6-feet of the required perimeter markers of the property but not shown on the plat.

Attorneys and land owners consider cemeteries and burial sites as an encumbrance on clear title to the land and thus reluctant to disclose any information.

In the case of the Lank family cemetery on the property of the Salisbury School on Hobbs Road, I found a covenant reserving again an undefined area of a 1/4 acre as a burial site and exempted from the land conveyed, that would be impacted by plans to build on the site. I determined the remains recorded on the site were removed and reburied in Wicomico Memorial Park; however, the cemetery area, as defined on the land plan, still belongs to the heirs of the Lank family from whom a quit claim deed would have to be obtained to be granted title to the abandoned cemetery area. No such action was taken by school officials.

In his 1971 book, *Graveyards and Gravestones of Wicomico*, John E. Jacob has listed 359 individual sites, but estimated some 600 sites to exist in the county, and to date I have recorded data on some 550 sites with more to be found. Of the 359 sites listed, I have confirmed at least 23 sites have been destroyed, and I am certain there are others I have not yet found.

Most drawings and maps show the boundary between Delaware (Sussex County) and Maryland (Wicomico County) along Route 54 as a straight line following the surveyed line between the two states; however, this is not the case at Line United Methodist Church where because of the cemetery partly in each state, Delaware Route 54 curves around the south end of the cemetery. One day while examining a marker on the Transpeninsular Line in the cemetery near the church, I noticed a walnut-shaped depression in the stone top and asked a church member there what might be the cause. He pointed to a nearby hickory tree and noted the nuts were cracked on the stone top over many years, a use not envisioned by surveyors Mason and Dixon.

Jim Trader is a Nabb Center volunteer, a historian by training and nature.

Editor's Notes: Mason and Dixon did not survey the Transpeninsular Line, but did accept this 1750 marker.

The Mason-Dixon Line And Kent County, MD

by Craig O'Donnell

First published in slightly different form, in the Summer 2006 Discover Kent County, *a publication of the Kent County News, Chestertown.*

The Mason-Dixon line. It is now best known for its association with the "flight to freedom" and away from slavery on the Underground Railroad. But its history is complex.

A nine-mile slice of it makes up Kent County's eastern border. It is this lesser-known north-south part of Mason and Dixon's line that defines Maryland's Eastern Shore.

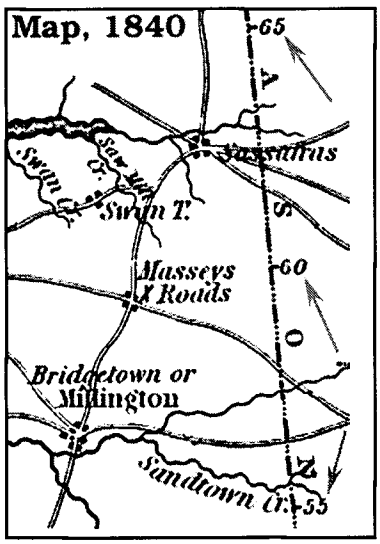
There are four pieces of the line: two make the border between Delaware and Maryland; one is the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland; and the last is a circular arc, with a small east-west "tail" that is the Delaware-Pennsylvania border.

It took more than a 100 years for the Colonial owners of Maryland and Pennsylvania to agree on a boundary. Confusing and conflicting original royal land grants, written in the 17th century, were composed without real geographic knowledge. Those grants and charters involved two different kings and the Duke of York, later King James II. Years passed as the Penns and Baltimores wrangled in England.

Long before Mason and Dixon set out on their survey of William Penn's land and Lord Baltimore's land, a survey commission finally met. Maryland Governor Ogle suggested in March 1732 that the best location for the conference would be "New Town"–now Chestertown. Later meetings were in New Castle, DE.

Beginning in 1735, Penns and Baltimores wrangled in court for 15 more years. Finally, the crown ordered everyone to accept the 1732 deal.

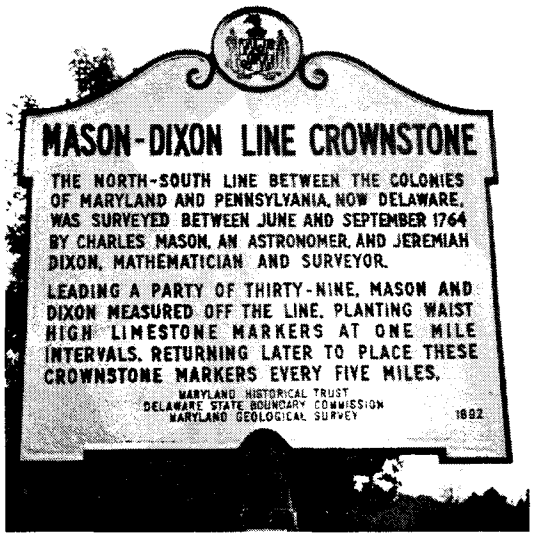
On March 23, 1761, a succeeding committee met again in Chestertown. They reviewed surveys done late in 1760 to establish the Delmarva Peninsula's "Middle Point" near today's Mardela Springs. It was to be halfway between the ocean and the bay shore. Even this east-west midpoint had been in dispute since 1750.



If Lord Baltimore had used a better map, our state line would start near Lewes, DE, and run west. Delaware would have no ocean beaches.

But his map showed "Cape Hinlopen" in the wrong place–well south of its true situation.

The boundary line was mistakenly set further south, starting at today's Fenwick Island, DE, southern Sussex County became part of Pennsylvania, and later Delaware.


MASON-DIXON LINE CROWNSTONE
THE NORTH-SOUTH LINE BETWEEN THE COLONIES OF MARYLAND AND PENNSYLVANIA, NOW DELAWARE, WAS SURVEYED BETWEEN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 1764 BY CHARLES MASON, AN ASTRONOMER, AND JEREMIAH DIXON, MATHEMATICIAN AND SURVEYOR.
LEADING A PARTY OF THIRTY-NINE, MASON AND DIXON MEASURED OFF THE LINE, PLANTING WAIST HIGH LIMESTONE MARKERS AT ONE MILE INTERVALS. RETURNING LATER TO PLACE THESE CROWNSTONE MARKERS EVERY FIVE MILES.
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DELAWARE STATE BOUNDARY COMMISSION
MARYLAND GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
1882

Once everyone agreed on the Middle Point, there was to be a "North Line," straight and almost due north, which would touch a circle centered on New Castle, DE.

That line would divide Maryland from what were then Penn's "three lower counties."

It would also intersect a "West Line" 15 miles south of Philadelphia. This would divide Maryland and Pennsylvania on out into unsurveyed western lands.

In 1763, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon were hired in England by the Colonial Proprietors to complete the survey. They brought state-of-the-art astronomical instruments to Philadelphia and set up shop. They located markers 15 miles south of the southern boundary of Philadelphia. They checked the earlier survey work on the "Transpeninsular Line" from Fenwick Island to the Middle Point.

The Middle Point was supposed to be halfway between the Delaware Bay and the shoreline of the Chesapeake.

Their frontier work began at the Middle Point on June 25, 1764. The clearing and surveying, nearly 90 miles northward, was completed first. In actuality they surveyed this "Tangent Line" and then calculated corrections and went over it a second time.

Later, they began the 233-mile-long "West Line." The project was completed on October 9, 1767, as far west as native American tribes would permit.

Mason and Dixon's work was accepted by both parties in January, 1768, and by the Crown in 1769.

The entire boundary was marked by imported stone monuments, placed at one-mile intervals. "P" (Pennsylvania) was carved on one face and "M" (Maryland) on the other.

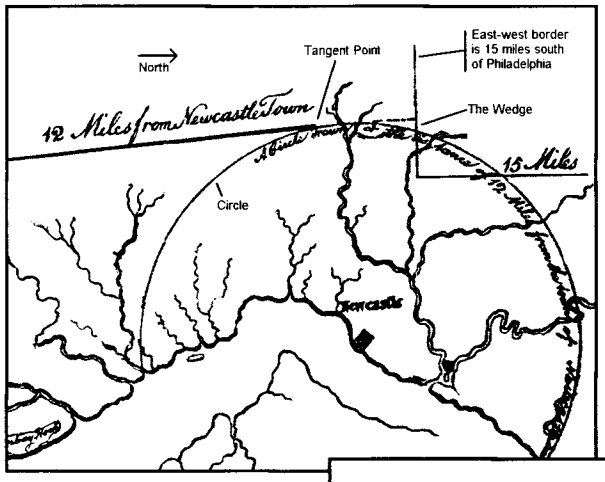
Every fifth mile a "crownstone" bears the Penn arms versus the Calvert crest. (Over the centuries, some stones have disappeared and some have been replaced).

Today, the stones are numbered on topographic maps from a point called zero, at Delaware's southwest corner: Mason and Dixon's Middle Point.

It is the eastern bound to Wicomico, Dorchester, Caroline, Queen Anne's, Kent and Cecil counties. Kent's 9-mile eastern boundary has eight monuments. Several of our Kent County stones are in dense woods; stone 61 lies buried in the rail bed near Golts. But four of these 18th-century relics are readily found near roads:

- 55, a crownstone, on Rte. 291 past Millington, east of

Peacock's Corners;
- 58, east of Massey on Rte. 330;
- 60, east of Golts, a few feet north of Delaware Line Road. No. 60 should be a crownstone but may be a replacement. Only a few inches of stone are visible;
- 63, north of Coldwell Corners, DE, on Maryland Line Road.



The Rest of the Tale

Mason and Dixon's survey team had cut a swath through swamp and forest wilderness for more than 300 miles in order to measure distances and set stones.

After the Revolution, the Penns, Calverts and kings were out of the picture.

But in the far west, disputes between Virginia and Pennsylvania continued. A survey project from 1782-86 finally settled the extreme western border.

And so what is now called the Mason-Dixon Line is shaped like a large Z starting at Fenwick Island, DE, crossing the peninsula westward through trackless cypress swamps to the Middle Point.

From there it runs slightly–about 3 1/2 degrees–west of true north.

Mason and Dixon picked this bearing based on the location of the Middle Point and the western edge of Delaware's famous circular northern border. It is a 12-mile radius, centered at the courthouse in New Castle, DE.

This laudable geometric concept, a circular border, was born in English drawing rooms. It caused trouble on the ground, though. The boundary had been established, though not accurately surveyed, about 50 years before Mason and Dixon arrived in America.

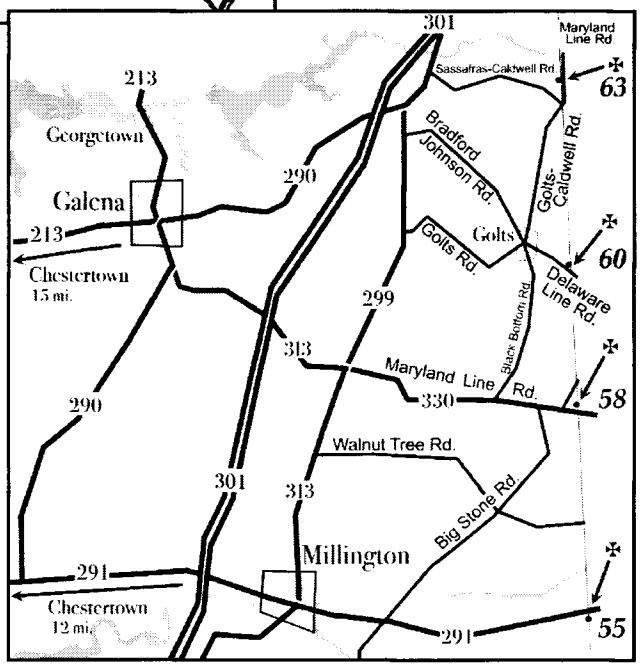
The practical Mason and Dixon approximated a true circle–surveyors of that day could only measure straight lines and angles. They laid it out as straight one-mile-long segments, from monument stone to monument stone. Each line touches the next at an angle 175 degrees, 13 minutes, 26 seconds. The calculated difference in length between the circular path and the straight line is only 1 1/2 feet, but Delaware did lose a few square yards of soil to Pennsylvania.

The north line touches this circle near Newark, DE, and continues a few miles more. There the line makes a sharp left turn. It runs directly west, becoming the well-known "Mason-Dixon Line" of slavery days.

This is not to say that Mason and Dixon's survey was the final word. The boundaries have been resurveyed at least three times over the past two centuries–with very little correction to their work.

"The Wedge" near Newark, an unexpected byproduct of the deal made in England, remained an orphan for a century and a half. The final adjustment occurred in 1921 when Congress gave The Wedge to Delaware.

There is a westward bump in the Delaware-Maryland line between Cecil County and New Castle County. This bulge, barely visible on the 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map for Newark-West, DE, is the arc of the 12-mile circle.



New Castle County, according to the settlement, would get any land inside the circle if it wound up west of the point where the North Line and the circle touched. Maryland lost some 39 acres to Delaware because of this.

Craig O'Donnell is a reporter and feature writer for the *Kent County News*.

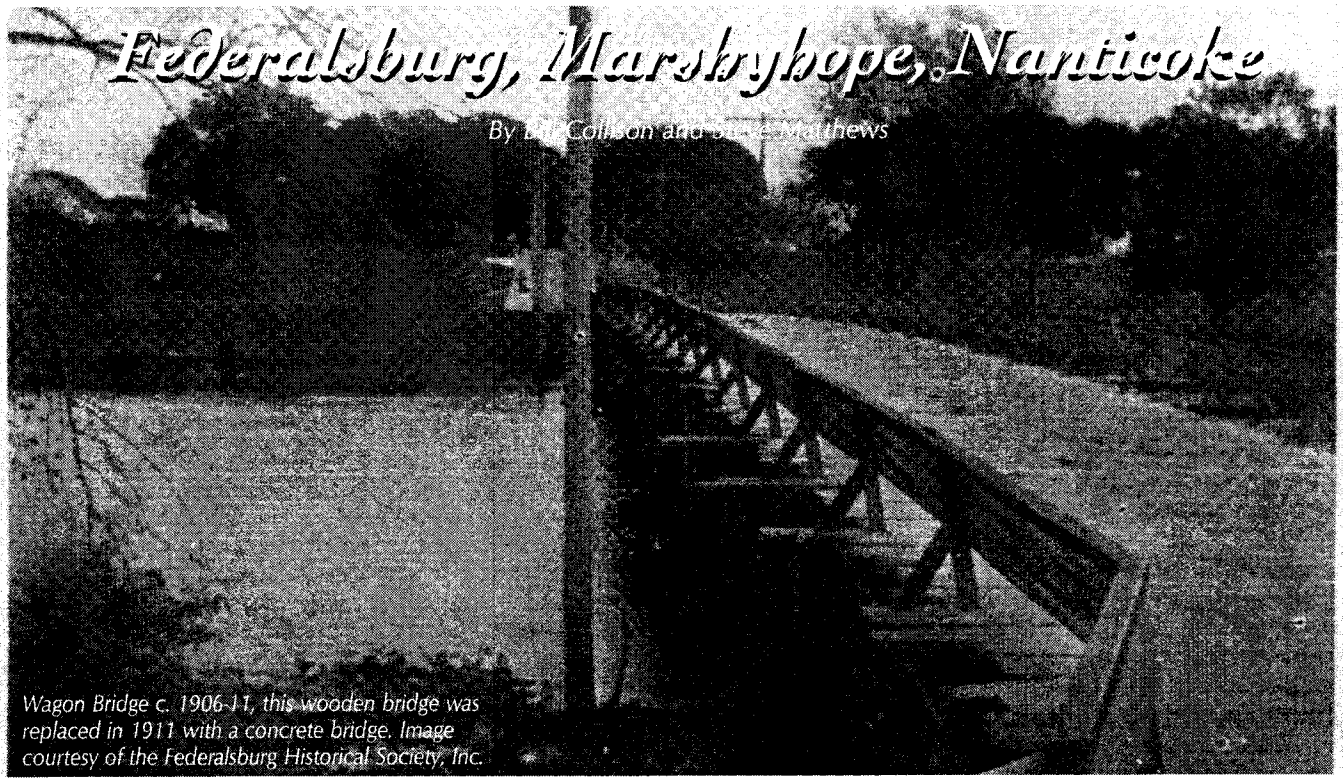
Editor's Note

Parts of this article are based on an essay by G. Marshall Naul in *Old Kent*, newsletter of the Historical Society of Kent County.

Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries

Federalsburg, Marshyhope, Nanticoke

By Bill Collison and Steve Matthews



Wagon Bridge c. 1906-11, this wooden bridge was replaced in 1911 with a concrete bridge. Image courtesy of the Federalsburg Historical Society, Inc.

Federalsburg is situated in southern Caroline County, MD, on the Marshyhope Creek or the Northwest Fork of the Nanticoke River. The town and river have often been the subject of boundary changes.

The Nanticoke River, above Vienna, splits into the Northwest Fork flowing to Federalsburg and the Northeast Fork which travels past Sharptown, MD, to Seaford, DE. Prior to 1684, Somerset County claimed all lands south and east of the Nanticoke River. The Northwest Fork was considered to be the main branch. This boundary divided the area later to be named Federalsburg and lay in both Somerset and Dorchester counties. In November 1684, a commission appointed by the Council of Maryland determined the northeast branch was the main stream of the Nanticoke; therefore, this area belonged to Dorchester County.

Inhabitants of Dorchester and Queen Anne's counties petitioned the Maryland General Assembly in 1773 to erect a new county by the name of Caroline. The erection of a new county would "conduce greatly to the Ease and Convenience of the People thereof." The act was passed by the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly in December 1773 and provided for the bounds and government to become effective in March 1774.

The southern boundary of Caroline County, and division line with Dorchester County, was specified to "begin at Hunting Creek, running up the main road at James Murray's mill, thence with that road to Northwest Fork Bridge, thence with the main road that leads to Cannons Ferry." Isaac Nichols and his son John Nichols formed the village of Federalsburg in 1791 on a tract called *Rawley*. The formation of this new county and the chosen boundary would cause Federalsburg to lie in both Caroline and Dorchester counties.

Northwest Fork Bridge, as Federalsburg was earlier known, has often been subjected to floods and consequently bridge destruction. The earliest known record of a bridge in this area is 1734, as recorded in Dorchester County land records, which specifies the bounds of *Rawley* and mentions near the bridge. Prior to December 1792, the Northwest Fork Bridge and adjoining roads were washed away. An act of the Maryland Assembly empowered and authorized commissioners of Dorchester and Caroline counties to open a main road and change the old road which was formerly the division of said counties at Northwest Fork Bridge. The new bridge was already completed by "several individuals" prior to the act, and had been built 19.5 perches (322 ft.) below where the old bridge stood. The act further required the bridge and adjacent road to be the new boundary of Caroline and Dorchester counties. When the new bridge and road were completed, the border of Caroline moved 322 feet south, and Caroline gained over two acres.

The final county boundary change to Federalsburg occurred in 1880 by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland. As two counties divided the town, students attended schools in their respective county. The Dorchester school was located on Main Street in town, while Caroline students traveled 1 1/2 miles east to the Tanyard schoolhouse. The administration of justice was difficult for the sheriff and courts serving the two jurisdictions. This act changed the boundary line and transferred certain territory and population from Dorchester to Caroline County. The area described included the Dorchester side of Federalsburg and the country immediately adjacent. All 70 voters residing within the territory proposed to be transferred petitioned the General Assembly. To satisfy their proportional share of a bonded debt, Caroline Commissioners were directed to pay Dorchester commissioners $614.

Countless cases of changing boundaries have been recorded since our forbears began settling Delmarva. All too often, hostile actions resulted from these changes. With credit to the past populace of Federalsburg, all changes were well received and supported.

Bill Collison is a Nabb Center volunteer interested in Eastern Shore history and genealogy. Steve Matthews is a Nabb Center member, resident of Federalsburg and an accomplished researcher.

A Skeleton Key to Historical Boundaries On Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore

by John C. Lyon

The Problem

The discussion here presents findings—primarily visual—from an essentially complete mapping of all Maryland land surveys made from the 1662 settlement of Somerset County, which originally occupied the modern area of Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester counties (Figure 1), and a large part of Delaware's adjoining Sussex County. A major result of this work is a new mapping of the pre-Revolutionary borders across the area and their development across a century.

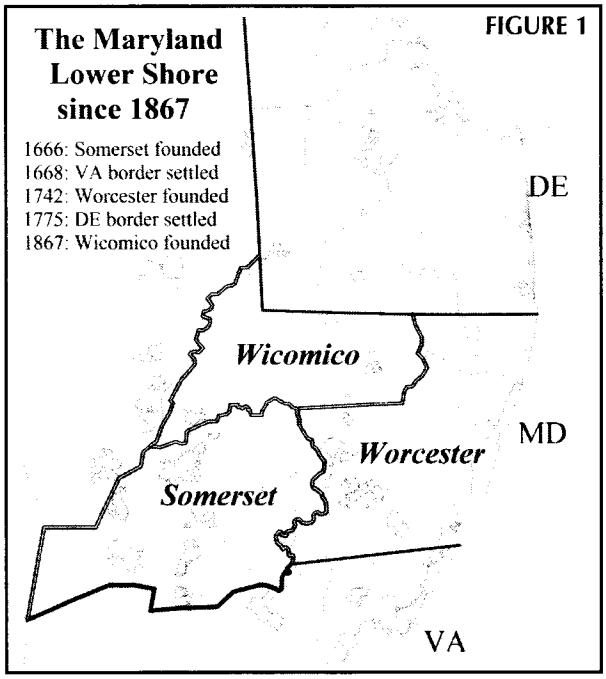
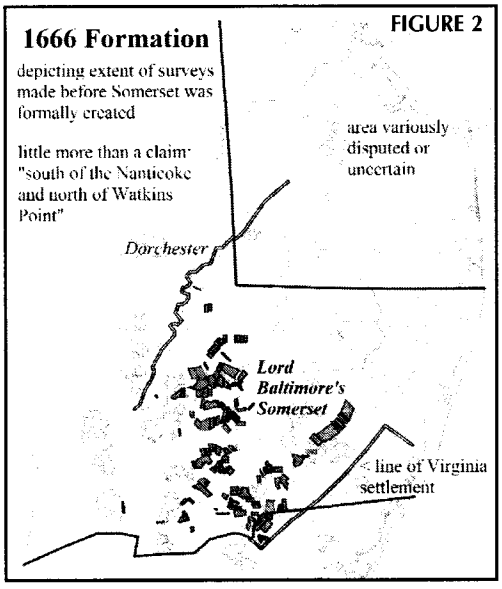


FIGURE 1

As anyone who has researched regional history or genealogy knows, the boundaries were not so clear before the American Revolution. Both Somerset and Worcester occupied far-larger territories, but practical understanding—beginning with the Provincial boundary of Maryland with Delaware—is hampered by lack of maps or even reliable descriptions of the state of affairs before the Mason-Dixon survey of the 1760s. Attempts to represent the actual or perceived borders have uniformly been limited to generalized depictions, often quite wrong or misleading.

The tract mapping carried out overcomes these difficulties. Fortunately, it is possible to use the original survey information in tandem with other period taxation and ownership records to reconstruct the county (and therefore Provincial) boundaries with great precision.


1666 Formation
depicting extent of surveys made before Somerset was formally created
little more than a claim: "south of the Nanticoke and north of Watkins Point"
area variously disputed or uncertain
Dorchester
Lord Baltimore's Somerset
line of Virginia settlement
FIGURE 2

At a lower level, Somerset and Worcester were administratively divided into several Hundreds, whose "official" borders are either vague or do not survive. The Hundreds are significant to research because many period documents are organized by Hundred—the basic constable's beat and taxation district. As a side benefit of the same mapping process that allows the determination of the county boundaries, the boundaries of the Hundreds, heretofore also quite mysterious or poorly represented, come to light.

Another result of this work is shown following the presentation of the maps. Even if one understands where the borders are, it is crucially important to be able to find the records needed to carry out research. A master finding aid has been included, which offers not only a simple device for knowing what county a particular record might be found in, but also a guide to serious inconsistencies and problems in the indexing systems available at the Maryland State Archives. The guide here at least provides an alert and some hope of overcoming the challenge presented by poorly or confusingly indexed records.

The material here contains no real discussion of the practical political and related issues that surrounded the changing borders. These are well-documented elsewhere. What is offered here is the reality of the borders perceived by the citizens who lived on Maryland's Lower Eastern Shore before the Revolution.

The discussion is chronological, in that the actual story was a continually changing one. A number of map representations are required to exhibit a rapidly developing and changing region, in which both Delaware and Virginia play a part.

In the Beginning: Not Borders, But Claims

Maryland settlement of the Lower Eastern Shore actually began in 1661, the first recorded surveys being made in the fall of 1662. But only in August 1666 did Cecil Calvert, the Lord Baltimore, as Proprietor of Maryland, issue a proclamation erecting the new county of Somerset within his province. The proclamation defined the "limits" of the new county as bounded by "a line drawn from Watkins Point ... to the Ocean on the East" and "by the Nanticoke River on the North & the Sound of Chesipiake bay on the West." The vague Calvert claim and the major issues are depicted in Figure 2.

There were a few small problems with this loose claim. First, no agreement existed on where "Watkins Point" was, separating Maryland from Virginia on the south. Second, almost no understanding at all existed on the northern extent of Calvert's province on the Eastern Shore. As time went on, both William Penn (of Pennsylvania) and the Duke of York (on behalf of New York) laid

Lines in the Sand... Our Shifting Boundaries

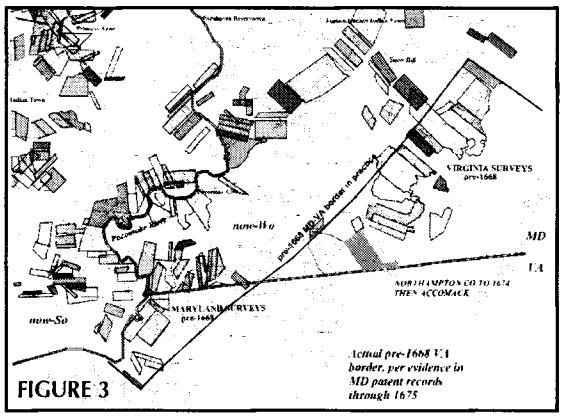


FIGURE 3

claim variously to what eventually became Delaware. Who owned what—both "south of the Nanticoke River" and along the Ocean front—was almost universally problematic.

Depicted in Figure 3 is a detailed look at the practical boundary that existed before a joint agreement on "Watkins Point" and the remainder of the Virginia border was made in 1668. This exhibits the utility of the tract mapping process in identifying the several dozen early land grants made by the two jurisdictions, which were later novated to the other.

Settlement and Development: Phantom Counties

After the uncertain boundary with Virginia was settled, some matters with respect to the future Delaware existed. Maryland actually proceeded c. 1670 to erect two counties near Delaware Bay: Durham and an original Worcester. The definitions of these were imprecise and apparently overlapping, but a limited amount of material in the land records allows us to identify and place them roughly. The Cecil County Rent Rolls are the primary source, listing about 50 tracts warranted and surveyed in Durham, though a few other mis-indexed properties are found in the Somerset records which add to this complement, depicted in Figure 4. In 1682 Maryland relinquished its claim to these, which became the undisputed portion of Sussex County, among "the Lower Counties of Pennsylvania."

But the rest of Sussex remained in dispute for almost a century, which bears on the development of Somerset.

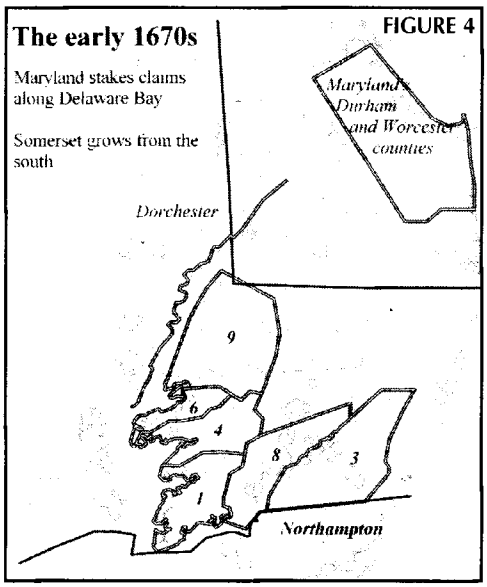


FIGURE 4

Formation and Evolution of the Hundreds

The Hundreds, as administrative subdivisions of a county, followed traditional English convention. Before the partition of Worcester in 1742, Somerset's Hundreds (in alphabetical order) were as follows. The dates of formation for several are explicitly mentioned in county records. Torrence offers "earliest mentions" of the remaining three, as indicated here:

1. Annemessex	Jan. 1666/7 (original)
2. Baltimore	1698
3. Bogerternorton	by Nov. 1670
4. Manokin	Jan. 1666/7
5. Mattapony	by Nov. 1683
6. Monie	Jan. 1666/7
7. Nanticoke	by Aug. 1676
8. Pocomoke	Jan. 1666/7
9. Wicomico	Jan. 1666/7

Figures 4 and 5—using the numbers above as legend—exhibit the evolving boundaries of the Hundreds as ascertained using the establishment dates given by Torrence in combination with the tract mapping. By 1698, all Hundreds had been created, but the settlement patterns point to the clear avoidance of lands not near navigable water. The interior of the peninsula did not fall completely under patent until almost 1800.

It was not until the 1730s that the then-perceived limits of Somerset began to intersect strongly with the Sussex claims. Only after this point can one actually say that a "border" between Maryland and now-Delaware truly existed.

Figure 6 (see cover) is drawn up precisely from the 1734 Somerset debt book, in which each tract is uniquely assigned to a Hundred. This fortunate survival allows the recreation of the county and all other Colonial maps presented here.

Development after the Creation of Worcester

On December 10, 1742, Worcester was calved from the east and north of Somerset as population growth and access to a handy county seat demanded.

As shown in Figure 7, only that portion of now-Sussex that became Little Creek Hundred remained in Somerset, and Worcester extended to the Nanticoke River.

Even before 1742, the handwriting was on the wall for the territories north of the Delaware line. At many points across the decades, Pennsylvania had sought favorable resolution of the overall boundary with Maryland, moving it south to its present location. By 1751, the lower boundary was all but settled with the survey of the so-called Transpeninsular Line, but Maryland refused to acknowledge it. Even after King George involved the Royal Surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon in the 1760s, and the full border was decreed, we find Maryland records representing the lands and people north of the line as within Maryland. This finally came to an end in the sum-

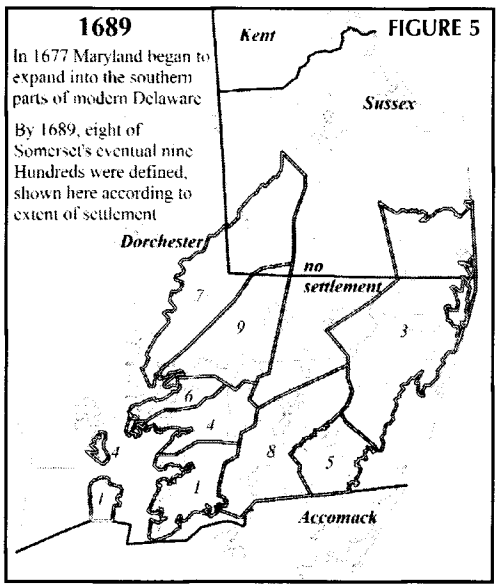


FIGURE 5

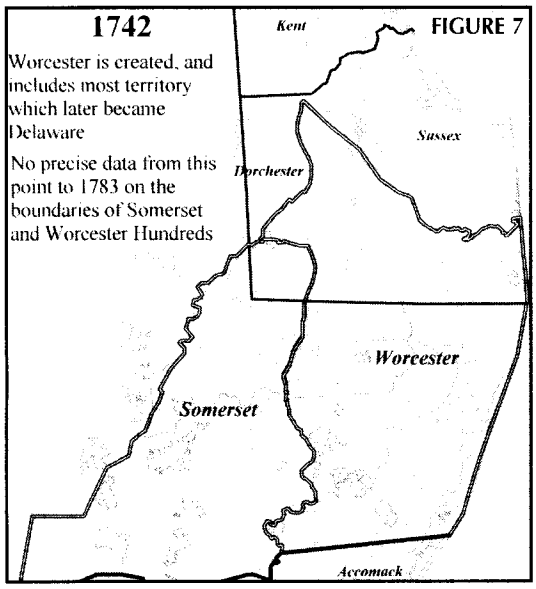


FIGURE 7

mer of 1775, when the last Worcester deed for land in Delaware was made.

After 1742 we have no complete information for the Hundreds through the remainder of the Colonial period in either county. Occasional mentions of definition of Hundreds are made in county records, but only in the Assessments of 1783 does a record series assign tracts to 17 Hundreds across the two counties.

1. Aquango	Worcester
2. Bogerternorton	Worcester
3. Buckingham/Worcester	Worcester
4. Dividing Creek	Somerset
5. Great Annemessex	Somerset
6. Little Annemessex	Somerset
7. Manokin	Somerset
8. Mattapony	Worcester
9. Monie	Somerset
10. Nanticoke	Somerset
11. Pitts Creek	Worcester
12. Pocomoke	Worcester
13. Pocomoke	Somerset
14. Queponco	Worcester
15. Rewastico	Somerset
16. Wicomico	Somerset
17. Wicomico	Worcester

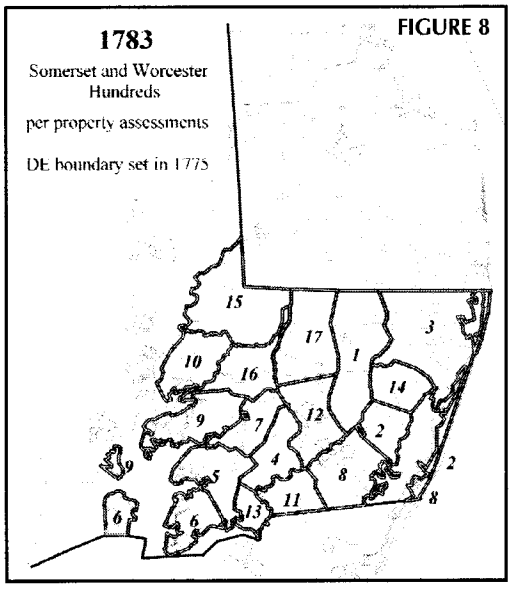


FIGURE 8

Finding the Records

Armed with the above, the researcher should be able to better affiliate people with counties and Hundreds and to be able infer the presumed location of records at differing points in time. Figure 9 underscores the convention to use. This can be used either "forward" or "backward," meaning that if (a) one knows the location of an individual, the records at a given time should be sought in the indicated jurisdiction, or (b) one finds a record indicating presence at some time, then the location among the zones is known.

Zone 1:	always Somerset
Zone 2:	Somerset to 1742, then Worcester
Zone 3:	Somerset to 1742, Worcester to 1775, then Sussex
Zone 4.	Somerset to 1775, then Sussex
Zone 5:	Somerset to 1742, Worcester to 1867, then Wicomico
Zone 6:	Somerset to 1867, then Wicomico

Recall that these refer to records at an instant in time—when the record was recorded. A single location may require searches in any of three counties at different points in time.

Unfortunately, the finding difficulties do not end here. The hope would be that the records can be always found in the county expected, but this is not always the case, in particular for records involving the state series of patents and certificates of survey. This is a consequence of the Maryland State Archives' indexing system for land records. The points to be aware of are:

1. Certificates of Survey are indexed according to their county of original record.

2. Patents are supposedly indexed in their modern county.

3. There are serious errors of omission and commission in the patent index. Many patents will not be found in a search on modern venue.

4. The recent electronic index to patents and certificates on plats.net has introduced many new errors that were not in the former paper indices.

This continues to mean that searches for any land record of the above kinds should be done as broadly as possible, even though the Master Index here points to what "should be."

John C. Lyon is an aerospace consultant who lives in Columbia, MD.

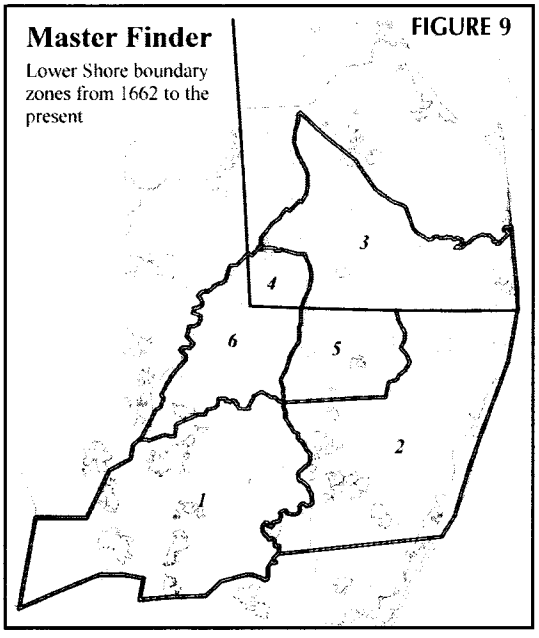
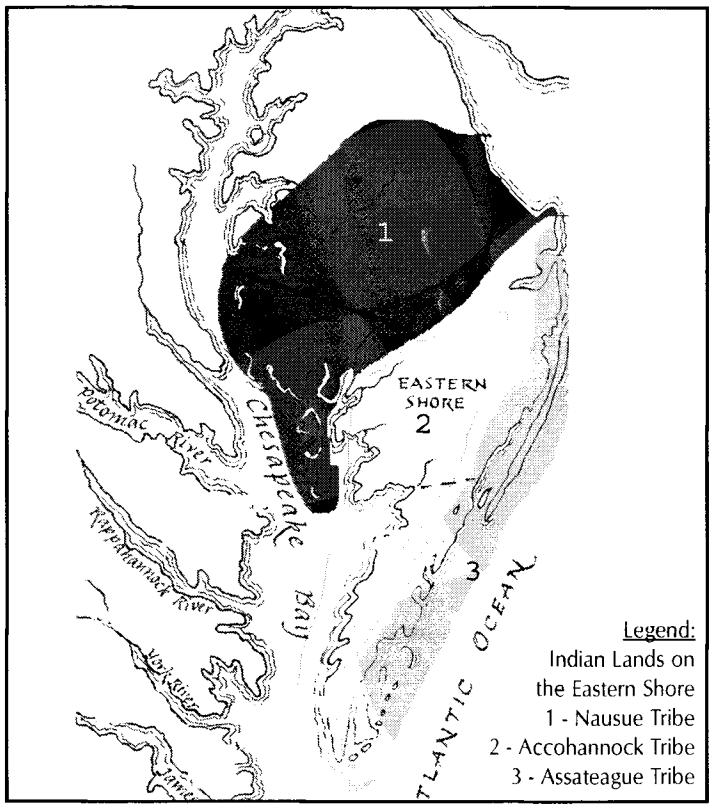


FIGURE 9

The Recognized Boundaries for the Ancestral Lands of the Main Three Tribes Of the Eastern Shore

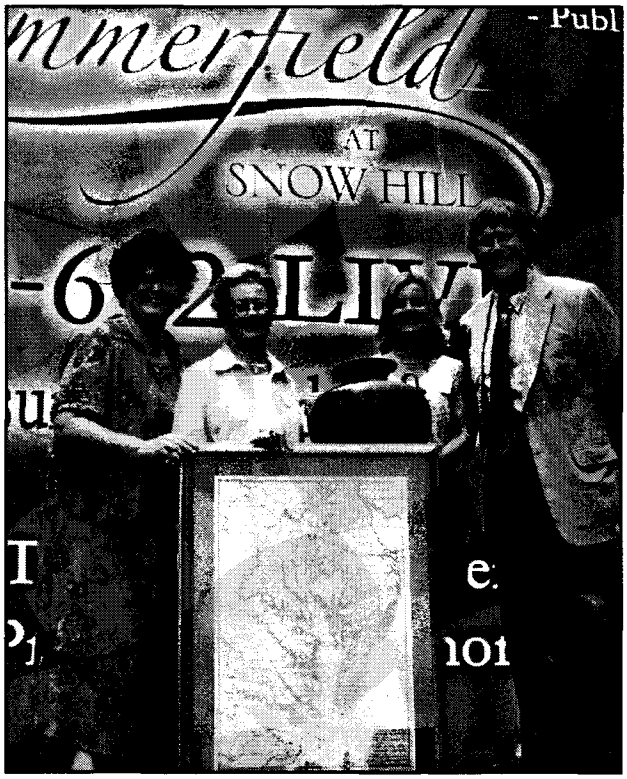
Compiled by James Edward Jensen

The information for this illustration arose out of the discussions held at the "Speaking Among the Ancestors" ossuary presentation held on Saturday, April 30, 2005, at Salisbury University. This event allowed archaeologists and associated representatives a chance to detail the recent finds from a local archaeological site and to discuss the known history of natives on the Eastern Shore. Following the presentations, three Eastern Shore chiefs sat and discussed the events surrounding the ossuary's discovery as seen through their eyes. This established an open dialogue, which permitted interesting details to come forth, including the details of what each of the three tribes believed to be their ancestral lands. Interestingly enough there were no two tribes claiming common lands. The three chiefs were: Chief Sewel Winterhawk Fitzhugh of the Nausue Tribe, Chief Medicine Cat of the Assateague Tribe and Chief Ruddy Hall of the Accohannock Tribe.



Honorary Gift Features Copy of Nabb Center Map

The Salisbury University Fulton School of Liberal Arts Dean Timothy O'Rourke presents a unique Delmarva map selected from the Suzanne Lankford collection at the Nabb Research Center to honor Mrs. Martha Fulton at the 2006 Delmarva Chicken Festival held at Snow Hill, MD.



Featured (from left) Vice President of University Advancement Rosemary Thomas, Mrs. Martha Fulton, Jennie Owen and Timothy O'Rourke.

Boat Building: A Willing Family Tradition

By Cynthia Anderson

When I began this project I had no idea of where it would lead me, I was just trying to learn more about my ancestry. But as it unraveled I found that our family represents at least seven generations of Somerset County boat carpenters, which is amazing. I am sure that when Tubman Willing was building his first wooden workboat or doing boat repairs in the early 19th century, he never realized that seven generations later his descendents would be carrying on the family tradition. Nor did he realize that much of his family would still be living along the Tangier Sound in Somerset County, MD, two centuries later.

During my childhood years I used to love to sit at my family's marina and watch as my father would make a pile of lumber grow into a beautiful workboat. However, I never realized until recently that this boat-building skill plays a major role in my family's heritage.

Tubman Willing, who according to the 1810 Census was between age 16 and 26, lived in present-day Tyaskin, MD. He was married to Martha Larramore on September 27, 1808, and by the 1810 census had one son. This son was Hezekiah, my great-great grandfather. In an inventory taken shortly after Tubman's death on February 24, 1837, I found that his estate was valued at $1,901.05. Included in his inventory are three slaves, a 53-year-old man named Joshua, a 36-year-old man named James and a 19-year-old woman named Minty, who was with child at the time of his death. Also listed in the inventory was old lumber, a barrel of tar, chains, a pit saw, timber and planks, three chisels, a molding plane, a jack and smooth plane stock, a tenant saw, a mall and a pair of wedges. All of these items would have been used in the boat building trade. However, even though these items are listed in his inventory, there is no listing of him as a carpenter or as a ship builder, and the 1810 census list him as a merchant.

Martha Willing, Tubman's first wife died before May 18, 1826, because according to Somerset County church records, this is when he married Bridget "Biddy" Adams. According to Tubman Willing's will he had at least three other children. Two son's, Benjamin and Isaac, and a daughter, Hannah. However, I believe that Hezekiah is the only son that he had by Martha, since in the will of John D. Larmore, dated January 18, 1858, Hezekiah Willing is listed as his nephew and receives an inheritance. There are other nieces and nephews listed, but Hezekiah is the only one with the last name of Willing.

I know that Hezekiah was a shipbuilder in Rock Creek, MD, since there are several references to this. The first reference is in the Methodist Church records, and then later in the 1860 census where he is listed as age 39 and a shipwright. In this census his real estate was valued at 500 dollars, as well as his personal property. It also states that he has four children, three daughters, Elizabeth age eight, Mary age six and Sarah age four, and a son Thomas who is two. He also is listed as married to Margaret, who is 35, and as living in the Tangier election district which is present-day Chance, MD. I also found documentation, in the Methodist Church records, that they were married on November 5, 1850.

Hezekiah later had three more children, Tubman Hezekiah in 1861, Leah in 1863 and Edward James on July 3, 1868. I obtained this information from the 1870 census records. No additional children appear in the census records after 1870.

The census records also revealed whether the Willing family members could read or write and if they attended school. In the 1870 census it states that Hezekiah, Margaret and Elizabeth can all read and write, and that Mary, Sarah and Thomas are attending school. By the 1880 census, Thomas was the only family member who could not write, but could read, and Edward was the only child attending school. This information leads me to believe that Hezekiah and Margaret were educated and therefore valued education and wanted their children to be literate and to know how to write.

Since Hezekiah's father had been a slave owner, I checked the 1860 slave schedule and found that he did not own slaves. Our family still owns the land where Hezekiah's boat yard was, which is located in present-day Chance on the Tangier Sound, near the mouth of the Wicomico River.

According to the 1920 census records, Edward, who is my great-grandfather, is the only son listed as a ship carpenter. He married Ida Mae Horner on December 28, 1898. They had four children, a daughter Ruth who was born in 1901, and three sons, Eldon Samuel born on October 5, 1903; Ralph H.W. born on November 2, 1906; and Edward Jr. who was born on June 6, 1914.

My grandfather was Eldon Willing, who along with his brothers Ralph and Edward became sailors and later captains of skipjacks. However, my grandfather did keep up the tradition of a boat carpenter even though he never became a boat builder. Eldon owned six different skipjacks during his career as a waterman. They were the *Ruth Thomas*, captained by his brother Ralph. This boat was sold to purchase the *Amy Mister* which Ralph also captained until his death from cancer in 1973. He also owned the *Esther W.* which was captained by Jessie Thomas, the *Upshur Q.* captained by Matthew Waters and the *Peter P.* which was captained by Leon Webster. Finally he owned the *Robert L. Webster*, which was the largest skipjack on the Chesapeake Bay, until the time of his retirement in 1970. Through the ownership of this fleet of boats he made numerous repairs and therefore used the boat carpentry skills that he had been taught by his father and later passed on to his sons.

On June 7, 1924, Eldon married Cassie Elizabeth Shores, also of Rock Creek. They had five children, Eldon Jr., Elsie, Dorothy, Jane and Jack. When Eldon retired in 1970 at the age of 67, he built Scott's Cove Marina along with his son Jack, who is my father, and who had worked as a boat builder for Chris Craft for several years prior to this. Later, Eldon Jr. joined them in the family business. There the three of them hand built two workboats a year until Eldon Sr.'s death from cancer in 1979. After his death, Jack and Eldon Jr. kept up the family tradition of building workboats with the help of their children Eldon III, Cindy, Stephen and Jack Jr. and nephews Donnie and Andrew Webster and Burt Parks, for several years.

In recent years, the marina has turned to boat repairs and rebuilding for several reasons. The first being that Eldon Jr. retired, and Jack's health has began to fail, and second because wooden workboats are less common today. The reasons for this decline in wooden workboats are that it is very expensive to build a handcrafted workboat, and area waterman cannot make the money that they used to. The second reason is that fiberglass workboats are more durable, so many watermen choose fiberglass over wood.

Many of the sixth generation boat builders have left Scott's Cove Marina. Stephen and Burt have become preachers, my brother Jack is a lawyer, Donnie is an accountant, Andrew has earned a degree in industrial engineering, and me, well I will soon become a teacher. Today Eldon III still remains at the Marina along with his nephew Sean Messick and Jack's grandson's Robert Kemp and David Anderson Jr., who works there part time while attending college.

Today's marina is ever changing. My nephew, Bobby is currently attending a diesel college in Nashville, TN, where he is learning to work on marine diesels. This education is necessary to keep the marina up with the latest technology being used by area waterman. The marina's remaining sixth and seventh generations of boat carpenters, Sean and Eldon III, still use their skills in boat rebuilds and repairs. In recent years they have rebuilt two skipjacks, the *Ida Mae* and the *Caleb Jones*. I have no doubt that Sean, who is old enough to remember when boats were being handcrafted at the Marina, will some day carry on the family tradition and again build a workboat there. As for my son David, his goal is to follow in my brother's footsteps and abandon the boatbuilding tradition to become a lawyer.

Cynthia Anderson is a 2006 Salisbury University graduate studying elementary education. Her article was written for Mrs. Genvert's History 215 class taught at the Nabb Research Center.

Preserving the Eastern 'Stones'

(Maintaining the Stone Bounders Between Maryland and Delaware)

By T. Aaron Horner

One of the fixtures many people encounter when they cross over from one state to another is the sign "Welcome to (insert state name)." Obvious a "sign" of the times with the mass mobility of the American people, particularly in the last century with the advent of the automobile, these landmarks gave people a sense of location. However, those types of signs did not exist 250 years ago, when travel was done by horse or foot. With few roads and a population that tended to stay put, signs that welcomed individuals were not needed. To give people a "sense of direction" here on the peninsula, stone monuments were set up all along the border between the colonies of Maryland and Pennsylvania prior to the American Revolution. It was uncommon to have this type of demarcation, but the boundary between these two entities had a very profound effect long before and after its completion.

Chandlee Compass, from the Nabb Center's Richard Cooper Collection, was designed by Goldsmith Chanlee (1751-1821), who began the production of surveying instruments just prior to the American Revolution.

In 1632, King Charles I granted Cecil Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore, a charter to establish a colony north of the Potomac River and Watkins Point up to the 40th parallel. For the next 50 years, the Calvert family did little to have the territorial lines surveyed. During that time, the Swedes and, later on, the Dutch established colonies along the western shores of Delaware Bay and River. In 1664, King Charles II granted his brother James, the Duke of York (and later King James II), that area between the Connecticut and Delaware rivers. Once he defeated the Dutch, James extended his claim over the entire lower Delaware River valley. In 1681, King Charles II granted William Penn a charter to establish a colony just north of Maryland. The following year, James leased the lands on the western side of the Delaware River to Penn, allowing him access to the Atlantic Ocean. With both proprietors claiming the same areas due to the vague language of their charters, the Calvert and Penn families fight one another to substantiate their territorial limits. In 1685, a ruling by the Commissioner for Trade and Plantation suggested the peninsula be divided in half. King James II further added the division should use a line of latitude from Cape Henlopen up to the 40th parallel. In 1732, both sides entered into Articles of Agreement similar to the 1685 rulings. However, Charles Calvert, Fifth Lord Baltimore, made one final attempt to confirm his charter, thus bringing the two sides back to court once again. At the end of a lengthy chancery battle (1735-1750), the court ruled on behalf of the Penns and the agreement reached by both parties in 1732.

In December 1750, surveyors from both colonies began to lay out the Transpeninsular Line, the east-west bounder bisecting the peninsula. Their objective was to determine the location of the Middle Point, which is today the southwest corner of Delaware. Rather than starting at Cape Henlopen, as both parties had agreed, they began the survey line at Fenwick Island. The map supplied by the Calverts during the chancery proceedings erroneously placed Cape Henlopen at Fenwick Island, some 15 miles south of the actual point. As the surveyors worked westward, each mile was marked with a wooden post. At every five mile interval, a rectangular stone made of amphibolite gneiss bearing the coat of arms of the Calvert and Penn families was set. When the surveyors reached the 15th mile mark, they had encountered the great Cypress Swamp, located at the headwaters of the Pocomoke River; as a result of the environmental condition, no stone was set. A total of seven stone monuments were set along the Transpeninsular Line. In 1760, surveyors started work on the Tangent Line, the north-south bounder running from the Middle Point to the Tangent Point, located at the upper end of the shore, near Newark, DE. Meanwhile, the Calvert and Penn families hired the services of two individuals, astronomer Charles Mason and surveyor Jeremiah Dixon, to continue the survey of the boundary between their respective colonies. Accepting the reports of those earlier surveyors, Mason and Dixon continued the work on the Tangent Line in 1764-1765. Each mile was marked with a stone bearing the initials "M" (for Maryland) and "P" (for Pennsylvania). At each five mile interval, a crownstone bearing the coat of arms of the Calvert and Penn families was set. Unlike the stones used on the Transpeninsular Line, which were native to the colonies, these stones were cut and carved from the Isle of Portland in Dorsetshire, England. Each stone was approximately 34 inches in length, 12 inches wide and 12 inches thick. After the completion of the north-south line, Mason and Dixon turned their attention to the east-west line running from the northeast corner of Maryland westward into the mountains. In 1768, a double crownstone replaced a white oak post set up at the Middle Point eight

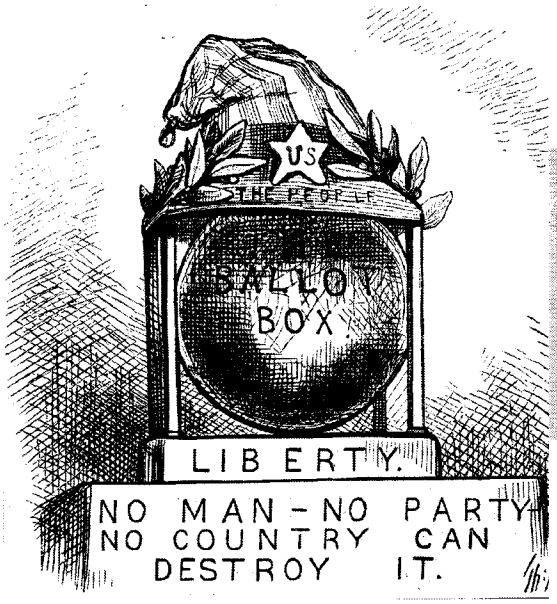
years earlier; a similar monument was also set up at the northeast corner of Maryland. On January 11, 1769, King George III ratified the petition to confirm the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania. Given the importance for its completion, the surveying instruments used by Mason and Dixon were "state of the art" for that time period.

Over the years, the stones demarcating the boundary between Maryland, Delaware and Pennsylvania have faced a number of hazards, such as weathering, vandalism and encroachment. The stones used by Mason and Dixon are made of a light bluff oolitic limestone. Like tombstones of old, these monuments have been exposed to the elements of temperature and precipitation, eroding away the surfaces of these stones for over 200 years. Some stones are believed to have sunken into the ground, particularly those set up in the marshes and swamps. A number of stones have fallen victim to vandalism. When Lieutenant Colonel James D. Graham of the United States Army resurveyed the line at the northeast corner of Maryland in 1849-1850, the double crownstone marking the corner was missing. The fifth mile monument on the Tangent Line, near Sharptown, has twice disappeared in the last 45 years. Other stones have been used as doorsteps; one particular stone had been used as a "walnut cracker" (see article "The Measure of a Cemetery" by Jim Trader). During the 1961-1962 resurvey of the north-south boundary by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, 15 of the 83 monuments set by Mason and Dixon were missing while five others appeared "out of position." In the past, both Maryland and Delaware enacted legislation to protect these monuments. In 1893, Delaware passed a bill making it a misdemeanor for anyone to damage or remove any stone or monument fixed by the authority of the state; punishment included a fine up to $1,000 and up to one year in prison (Delaware Acts of Assembly, 1893, Part 1, Chapter 448). Maryland passed similar legislation in 1906 with lesser penalties. During the Colonial period, as surveyors placed monuments along the boundary, much of the terrain was wilderness. Due to the urban growth here on the shore, particularly in the last 50 years or so, these markers are no longer remote to human contact. Today, the 40th mile monument on the Tangent Line can be found in the Central Delaware Landfill near Sandtown. Other markers have been moved slightly from their original settings due to the widening of local and state roads.

As the bicentennial celebration marking the boundary drew near, the Maryland state legislature sponsored several bills toward its recognition. In 1957, a bill called for local and state agencies in both Maryland and Delaware to erect historical markers at Middle Point. At that time, the monuments there continued to be on privately-owned farmland held by George E. Wright of Maryland and Harvey C. Ellis of Delaware. After securing the lands and a right-of-way to the monuments, work began on a shelter protecting these markers. The construction of the pavilion was completed through the efforts of the Delaware State Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On November 11, 1961, at a ceremony attended by representatives by both states, including Governor Elbert N. Carvel of Delaware and Maryland State Senator Mary L. Nock of Wicomico County, the pavilion at Middle Point was dedicated. In 1965, a bill called on the postmaster of the United States to issue a commemorative postage stamp for 1967. In 1974, the National Ocean Survey completed a resurvey of the Transpeninsular Line. Wooden posts that once marked each mile along the line were replaced by brass disks set in a Portland cement concrete monument. In November 1990, the Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors along with the Maryland Society of Land Surveyors formed the Mason and Dixon Line Preservation Partnership. Its goal is to identify, protect and preserve those monuments marking the east-west boundary between Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. One of the methods used by this group has been locating and documenting monuments through Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

Throughout its history, the Mason-Dixon Line has taken on a significant role. Originally created as a political division, over time, it became a social and cultural boundary as well. Ironically, the line was established to settle a feud between two families (Calvert and Penn), yet 100 years later a greater feud continued between two separate and equal identities (North and South); a feud that unfortunately led to a great number of lives lost for our nation. It has been said that the Mason-Dixon Line is the second most important line, after the Equator. Both government officials and the public on all sides of the line have taken great steps to preserve this unique identity not only to Delmarva but to our country as well.

T. Aaron Horner, Nabb Center research assistant and Salisbury University alum, specializes in both geography and history with an interest in the Eastern Shore.



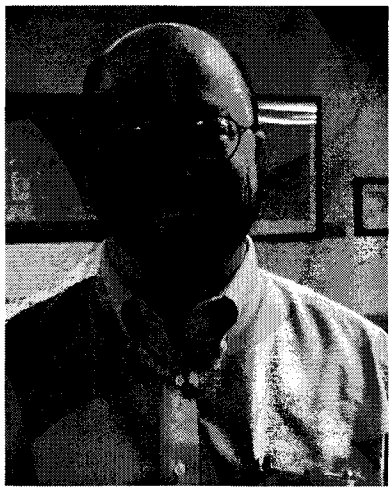
Date to Remember!

Tuesday, November 7, 2006 – Election Day

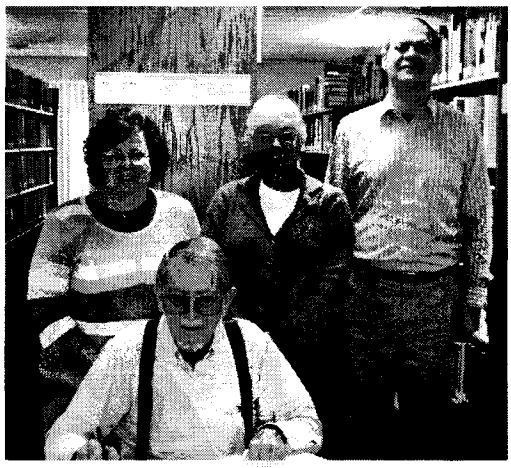
Remember your historical and civil right to vote.

People People People People

Volunteer Corner



L. Paul Morris is a Nabb board member and volunteers on Monday nights enabling the Reading Room to remain open.



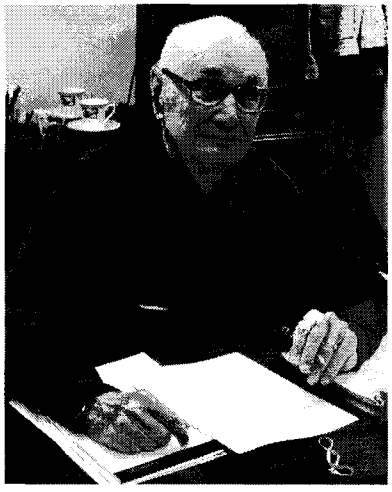
Featured in the group photograph are Jim Trader seated and from left to right Carolyn Ballou, Pat Taylor and Bill Collison.

Bill Collison, aids visitors with their genealogical research in the Reading Room and volunteers Monday night.

James Trader is a Salisbury volunteer and local historian.

Carolyn & Joe Ballou are a volunteers and research assistants at the Nabb Center where she assists with various tasks, including genealogy queries, scanning and Monday nights.

Jane West is a Salisbury alum and retired schoolteacher. Jane has entered in over 5,000 obituaries in the Nabb database. She resides in La Plata, MD, with her husband, John.



Bill Miles, Salisbury, volunteers his time diligently re-organizing the Nabb Research Center's Miles family survey papers and plats – a lifetime of work begun by his grandfather and father, both surveyors.

Bonnie Barnidge, a new volunteer, at the Nabb Center, researches material to answer queries.

Pat Taylor is a Nabb board member, volunteer, research assistant and Volunteer Coordinator, at the Nabb Center, where she can also be found giving help in the Reading Room.

Polly Batchelder is a volunteer and has been working on the Long Family Book along side Kathleen Fichtel, a summer intern. Sponsored by NEED Long.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Treasure of Reflections Saved: The Civil War Diary of Dr. Joshua Underhill

Emancipt. Proclamation published in *Memphis Bulletin*—yesterday evening's edition. Weather clear and rather cool—last few days been rainy."

Issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation opened the way to recruiting black troops into the Union forces. Underhill was still in Helena on Tuesday morning, April 7, 1863, when several high-ranking officers spoke to the troops:

> Yesterday arrived L. Thomas Adjutant General of the U.S. Army. He comes for the purpose of arranging for the recruiting at this place of negroes. Word was dispatched to the different regts. that he would speak in the fort at three o'clock. Accordingly before that hour the fort was filled with soldiers impatiently awaiting the announcement of the General. Not less than 4,000 were in the fort ... . Gen. Thomas briefly made known the purpose for which he was visiting the different portions of the Army. He was enthusiastically cheered at almost every sentence of his short address. The General is apparently about sixty years of age, but years sit lightly on him. He is of fine athletic form—full six feet high well muscled and straight as an arrow. His hair is perfectly white and he is altogether the very personification of a venerable hero. His short speech was followed by a few remarks from Major General Prentiss who was almost continually cheered. Brig. Gen. Alvin P. Hovey followed in a few brilliant and eloquent words. Gen. Hovey is a young man of prepossessing and romantic appearance. A little above the medium size, handsome features, a head the beau-ideal of the phrenologist. He is a statesman, scholar, soldier, and gentleman, a man destined to rise to yet greater fame. No man is more popular with his men than Gen. A.P. Hovey. Next followed Major General Washburne who was well received and spoke many words of food cheer. He is a large man weighing perhaps two hundred. Short neck, full face, not very expressive, hair flaxen and slightly bald. He is well liked by his men. Hon. Mr. Mitchell Member Congress from Indiana also spoke—had been on a visit to army at Vicksburg. He is no doubt an able, sound man, and good thinker but no speaker. He is a gentleman of perhaps 55 years of age, with good head, smooth, broad face—and a countenance beaming with benignity and honest integrity... . A few ladies, principally officers' wives, graced the meeting with their presence. The enthusiasm of the army has never been as great since we left Indiana as it has been for the last month.

Although Underhill spent most of the time from July 1862 until April 1863 in Helena, others in the Indiana 46th participated in Grant's several unsuccessful attempts to open up Vicksburg that winter. By April, Grant had decided to move his troops south through Louisiana, then across the Mississippi River below Vicksburg and to attack from the rear. The Indiana 46th was among the first units across, traveling light without many supplies. On Friday, May 8, "Forces reviewed by General Grant—an order read from him complimenting the army on their achievements ... Promised the principal part of our hardships would soon be over but said that more battles were first to be fought." On May 9, " Since we left Milliken's Bend have not been sheltered by tents. Arrange a few boughs to form a shade beneath which we lie lazily during the heat of the day. The same arrangement also suffices to intercept the heavy dews that fall. Make our beds on the ground and sleep with lizards and snakes with which country abounds."

Following a stiff fight at Champion Hill, the 46th moved west toward Vicksburg after "our division was engaged in burying dead, collecting spoils of battle." By May 25 they were "lying in a ravine 400 yards distant from enemy's fortifications sharpshooting ... We could distinctly hear at night the barking of dogs in the city—the town clock striking—carriages rattling over the streets and such like sounds. Flag of truce came over from the Rebels about 2 o'clock this afternoon for the purpose of burying their dead. We also occupied the time burying our dead who had fallen near the enemy's works. The occasion of respite was enjoyed hugely by both parties. Boys were close enough together to carry on ordinary conversation. In fact some of ours as well as theirs crossed the lines and becoming mixed were obliged to be sent back by their respective commanders... ."

Unable to penetrate its fortifications, Grant laid siege to Vicksburg. It lasted 47 days. On July 3, 1863, Underhill wrote:

> Siege still continues. This is the 46th day but from circumstances developed within the last few house the place will probably be surrendered within the next 12 hours. This morning between the hours of 7 and 8 o'clock a flag of truce was sent by Gen. Pemberton to Gen. Grant asking that commissioners be appointed to fix the terms of surrender. Grant replied that it was unnecessary, as the surrender must be unconditional... .

And on Saturday, July 4th, 1863:

> At 5 o'clock this morning all our large guns opened up and fired 35 rounds blank cartridges in honor of the glorious 4th. At precisely half-past seven the City of Vicksburg surrendered. When the white flags were placed upon the forts in token of surrender enthusiastic shouts went up from thousands of our brave boys. The shouts were taken up and carried along the line for miles.

That same day, Union forces defeated the Confederates at Gettysburg. Vicksburg would not celebrate July 4 until after World War II.

The 46th immediately moved east under General Sherman toward Jackson to repulse a threat from the rear. Underhill found detestable that "all the ponds and cisterns have been rendered unfit for use by the Rebels killing hogs, cattle, mules, etc. and throwing them in the water—detestable mode of warfare—unfit for civilized nations." But in what was to become General Sherman's trademark, Underhill witnessed Union troops vandalizing property on July 17: "Boys are pillaging unmercifully—Should not be permitted. War, civilized war, is bad enough, it should not be perverted from its original design."

On July 22, his diary fell from his pocket and he did not start another. After returning from the abortive Red River campaign, Underhill eventually ended up in Lexington, KY, promoted to surgeon. After mustering out in September 1865, he settled in Cincinnati where he died in 1889.

Chris Morrs, a great-grandson of Dr. Underhill and a former high school teacher, attended Harvard College and Boston University. He resides in Sherborn, MA, and currently serves on the board of the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston.

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